

Hamas has secretly set up party

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The militant group Hamas has secretly set up the nucleus of a political party, apparently in a first step towards competing in planned Palestinian elections, according to an internal Hamas memo obtained Wednesday. A possible Hamas decision to challenge the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) at the ballot box rather than through violence could remove a major threat hanging over Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts. According to the two-page document obtained by the Associated Press, Hamas has set up the core of a party, but is split over whether to make its formation public now or wait until it has negotiated the terms of political participation with the PLO-led Palestinian National Authority. "The issue of the political party for the movement has taken up a large part of our daily concern," said the Aug. 28-dated memo issued by Hamas in the Gaza Strip. "We have formed a preparatory committee and the brothers are doing their work. They have formed a political bureau and chosen its members," the document said. The memo said the names of the party's leaders were being kept secret out of security concerns, but did not explain further.

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Exiled Senussi urges Qadhafi's fall

CAIRO (AFP) — The exiled crown prince of Libya, Mohammad Al Hassan Al Senussi, on Wednesday called for Muammar Qadhafi to quit power. The nephew of King Idris, deposed in 1969 coup, called on "Libya's neighbours to put pressure on Qadhafi to leave power (so that) we can hold elections... and so secure a safe and secure future for our nation." He urged the United Nations to "freeze all the assets of those who deal with Qadhafi" and to impose oil sanctions on Libya to dry out its coffers. Prince Senussi, 33, fled to London in 1988 after living under house arrest in Libya since his uncle's overthrow. He also accused Egypt in his statement of "duplicity" by helping Libya despite international sanctions imposed in 1992. "Egypt is now one of Qadhafi's closest allies," he charged. "I am giving notice to Egypt to take their hands off my country's wealth."

Turkish forces kill 10 rebel Kurds

DYARBAKIR (R) — Turkish security forces have killed 10 Kurdish rebels in clashes in southeastern Turkey, regional security officials said on Wednesday. The emergency rule governor's office, based in Diyarbakir, said the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas were killed in three different clashes in Hakkari and Bitlis provinces on Tuesday. It said seven of the guerrillas were killed in Isiklar village and Altindaglar Mountain in Hakkari province and the other three were killed in Agacdere village in Bitlis province.

Cannabis fields go up in smoke

BEIRUT (AFP) — Syrian and Lebanese security forces destroyed 1.25 hectares of cannabis in a remote area of the eastern Bekaa Valley on Wednesday, police reported. The Lebanese anti-narcotics agency monitored the destruction of the cannabis on three separate plantations 70 kilometres northeast of Baalbek in the Syrian-controlled valley. Foreign Minister Fares Bouez, meanwhile, urged international aid donors to keep their promise to help rehabilitate the Baalbek-Hermel region where drug production flourished during the 1975-1990 civil war. Together with Agriculture Minister Shawki Fakuri, he made the appeal at a meeting with diplomats from 12 Arab and Western countries, including Japan, Australia, France, Germany and Saudi Arabia. Around 20 countries have pledged \$34 million to help Lebanon stem out the cultivation of cannabis and poppies from the Bekaa since a campaign to eradicate illicit drugs was launched in 1991.

Israeli to sing Arab hits in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — In a reflection of gradual rapprochement between Israelis and Palestinians, a Moroccan-born Israeli whose Hebrew versions of Arabic songs have made her a star among both Jews and Arabs is planning to perform in Gaza next week. "It's my first time there and I'm very excited," said Zehava Ben of her planned concert before a Palestinian audience in Gaza City — the first such show by an Israeli artist. "I have a lot of admirers there and I receive many letters and telephone calls from them," she told Israel TV. Singing Middle Eastern style songs in ululating Arabic and Hebrew, the 24-year-old Ben is popular in the Arab World and bootleg tapes of her songs are common in Gaza. She was to be accompanied by 24 Gazan musicians in a programme featuring the songs of legendary Egyptian singer Um Kulum.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Russia maintains denial of any secret Iran deal

MOSCOW (AP) — Top Russian nuclear officials tried again on Tuesday to defuse fears of secret contracts with Iran, saying all the deals with Tehran are open and peaceful.

"You could argue that any development of nuclear technology is a step towards creating nuclear capability. But I could also say a secondary school education is a step towards developing nuclear capability," said Mikhail Ryazin, head of international affairs for the Atomic Energy Ministry.

There have been several press reports claiming Russia has signed secret contracts to provide Iran with reactors, as well as conflicting statements about the status of existing contracts to finish construction of Iran's Bushehr nuclear plant.

"These are peaceful contracts. They pursue no military goals," Eduard Akopyan, head of the construction company for the Atomic Energy Ministry, told a news conference Tuesday.

He and other officials blasted last week's report by a British newspaper that said Russia had signed a separate, secret deal in August to provide two additional reactors for military purposes.

Mr. Akopyan called the report "sick imaginings." When he read the report, he said, "my ears curled and my hair stood on end."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is expected to demand clarification over the Bushehr deal during a trip to Moscow next week.

Officials say the confusion may stem from the fact that

Russia has two, not just one, contracts for the Bushehr plant.

One, for a pair of new 440-megawatt light water reactors, got little attention when it was signed in May 1993. It was never implemented for what Mr. Akopyan called "technical and administrative reasons."

The second, signed in January, provoked bitter protests from the United States, which fears Iran will use the technology to develop nuclear weapons.

A Russian atomic energy delegation visited Iran at the end of August to discuss construction and financing arrangements for the first reactor at Bushehr on the Gulf.

But a diplomat here said Wednesday it could be premature to launch construction of the two additional reactors in view of Iran's payment difficulties.

"Unless the Russians are crazy they will wait to be paid for the first VVER-1000 reactor before launching work on these two reactors," the official said, adding that the work could take years.

Iran has agreed to pay 90 per cent of the costs in hard currency, in installments, and the rest in various goods manufactured in Iran.

Some 15,000 Russian technicians and other experts will be involved in the construction of the plant, which will take four years to build.

It is partly equipped by Siemens, which started the project during the reign of the Shah.

According to the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry, construction of the 1,000-megawatt reactor is to start in October and deliveries of nuclear fuel from Russia are to start in 2001.

Another official told AFP the deal with Iran was "a normal commercial transaction."

Who is behind the Talibans?

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The lightning offensive by the Taliban Islamic militia in western Afghanistan has thrown the spotlight back on the enigmatic religious students and again raised the question: Who is behind them?

The Talibans, led by students trained in Pakistani Koranic schools, burst onto the Afghanistan political scene late last year and quickly captured a third of the country.

But the movement, which intends to set up an Islamic state, seemed to stall after being forced back

from the gates of Kabul in March by forces loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Mr. Rabbani's administration was even more specific on Tuesday, claiming the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and other outside groups had been instrumental in helping the Taliban take Herat.

Pakistan, which maintains its official position of non-interference in Afghan affairs, denies aiding the Taliban, just as had previously denied aiding another opponent of Rabbani, Hezb-e-Islami chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

As before, fingers are pointing at Pakistan as the force behind the movement, a charge Pakistan denies.

"With the Talibans, it's a

Pakistani solution that is in progress," said one former Afghan diplomat.

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U.S. seeks to warm up Israeli-Palestinian peace track

Los Angeles Times

THE CLINTON administration is insisting that the upcoming signing of the agreement on the long-awaited second stage of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process merit another party on the White House lawn. Just in case the stars of the hour, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, feel a little uncomfortable together, the White House producers have invited King Hussein of Jordan and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. The event, being planned for later this month, is supposed to raise the temperature of the chilly negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. A signing ceremony, the White House contends, will provide a much-needed boost to the supporters of peace in both communities, rebuke their opponents and temper those

members of Congress who oppose U.S. aid to the Palestinians. Administration officials add that the festivities may even persuade the international community to deposit a little extra cash in the dwindling accounts of the Palestinian Authority.

It is difficult to imagine someone actually believing that raising glasses at the White House will diminish, even in the slightest, the opposition of large segments of the Israeli population to the transfer of responsibility for security in the occupied West Bank to the Palestinian police. Nor will a glitzy ceremony in the Rose Garden improve the mood of Gaza's unemployed. On the contrary, it may serve to sharpen the criticism by Hamas that Arafat is deaf to the suffering of his people. Will a Bill Clinton handshake narrow the gap on the arguments over Jerusalem, Jewish settle-

ment in Hebron, or Israel's request for the extradition of terrorists who escaped to the territory of the Palestinian Authority? And will an invitation to this flamboyant ceremony convert in one fell swoop the members of Congress who are indisposed to opening the U.S. Treasury for Arafat?

The expectations that have risen around the half-baked celebration of peace only add to the difficulty of already complicated negotiations. Another ceremony, held far from the scene of constant anxieties, attacks and prosaic concessions may actually increase the alienation of leaders from their publics. The empty space of the Syrian representation in the pew of honoured guests will no doubt deepen the isolation of President Hafez Assad, the only participant of the start-up Madrid Conference who will be glaringly absent from

the Washington event.

The surprise of the Oslo agreements and the euphoria that accompanied the signing on the South Lawn in September, 1993, cannot be repeated. The governments of Rabin and Clinton mistakenly believed that peace speaks for itself. They abandoned the field to Israel's right wing and its American Jewish allies for whom the deal with the Palestinians is anathema both to their ideological beliefs and their political interests. The New York newspaper Jewish Press encourages its readers to call

the Embassy of Israel in Washington and the prime minister's office in Jerusalem to protest against the "heinous dictatorship" reminiscent of a Nazi period. Jewish militants are skillfully using statements from the president of Israel, Ezer Weizman, who has repeatedly called on the government to reassess its steps.

It is difficult to see what benefit the White House hopes to gain from hosting the signing ceremony in Washington. A photo opportunity with Rabin and Arafat has already proved to be a very short-term achievement. President Clinton was never involved in the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Likewise, the peace treaty with Jordan was reached by the two countries without American intercession. The Clinton administration will not garnish its credit in foreign policy from Middle East photo-diplomacy, but rather on the basis of the success of its true diplomacy and military involvement in Bosnia and in its ability to rescue relations with China from the nadir to which they have sunk.

After the Aug. 21 suicide attack on a bus in Jerusalem, Hamas announced that the bombing was designed to

weaken public support for the Rabin government as it approaches an election in November, 1996. The White House is gambling that Hamas does not also intend to influence American policy by embarrassing Clinton and his guests at the height of the party.

The process of reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians is at a sensitive, vulnerable and painful stage. In this peace process, there are no free parties. Many will still have to pay the price for peace. It is only fitting that the United States and other Western nations do their part to reduce the risks and improve the mood in the region. The right way to express such support for the peace process in the Middle East would be to sign the second stage of the agreement in a modest ceremony in a refugee camp at the crossing station between Israel and Gaza.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Oman calls for boosting ties with Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, Yousef Ben Alawi Abdullah, called for boosting ties with Iran in a meeting here with President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the official daily Iran said Wednesday. Mr. Ben Alawi, who arrived here Tuesday for a two-day visit, said in the meeting late Tuesday that his country was "interested in familiarizing itself with Iran's viewpoints toward regional developments." Oman is also "interested in expanding and deepening ties with the Islamic republic," he was quoted as saying. Mr. Rafsanjani said he welcomed boosting ties and cooperation with Muslim countries of the region "without the interference of foreign countries." The Omani minister also met Tuesday with his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati to discuss regional cooperation. Mr. Velayati called for speeding up implementing agreements in economic and political fields.

UAE guards seize 41 Asian intruders

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) coast guards have seized 41 Asians who tried to enter the country illegally in search of jobs, coast guard sources said on Wednesday. The 41 Iranians, Pakistanis and Afghans were captured on Tuesday after their two boats entered the territorial waters of the eastern emirate of Fujairah in the Gulf of Oman, the source said. More than 25,000 illegal emigrants, mostly Asians, have been seized over the past two decades while trying to sneak into the UAE, a major Gulf oil producer with one of the highest per capita income in the world.

Morocco arrests Europe-bound migrants

RABAT (R) — Moroccan police arrested in the northern city of Tangier 12 people who tried to cross illegally the Straits of Gibraltar to Spain, the official news agency MAP reported late on Tuesday. The clandestine emigrants tried to cross by a small boat the 14 kilometres which separates the North African City of Tangier from southern Spain, MAP said. It did not give the nationality of the arrested emigrants. Mohammad Menouach, a ferryman, who was in charge of arranging the night crossing operation, was paid the equivalent of \$1,000 per head, MAP said. He was also arrested.

The group risks up to three months in jail. A group of 38 other clandestine emigrants bound for Europe were arrested last week in the same area, the opposition Al Bayan reported.

Egyptian election brawl ends with six hurt

CAIRO (AFP) — Six people were hurt and 19 were arrested when the first punch-up of the new Egyptian election campaign broke out between campaigners in the Nile Delta, the government daily Al-Ahram reported Wednesday. The dispute erupted Tuesday when supporters of candidate Mortada Manso tried to tear down posters of the current deputy Abdul Rahman Baraka, a member of the ruling National Democratic Party. Baraka's supporters rushed to intervene in the town of Mit Gharr, 80 kilometres north of Cairo. Legislative elections are scheduled for November, and such brawls are common during campaigning especially in the provinces.

Dead man crosses sea to Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — The body of a German missing since his plane crashed off Turkey two months ago has been washed up across the sea in Lebanon, a spokesman for the German embassy said on Wednesday. Claus Schenck's body drifted across 600 kilometres of the Mediterranean south from the Antalya coast in Turkey to Beirut after he drowned in the accident, said embassy attaché Rainer Gleich. Lebanese and German officials were unable to explain how Schenck's body was able to drift such a long way. "It is quite amazing," said Mr. Gleich. Schenck, 38, and his father died when their light plane crashed on a day-trip along the Turkish coast during a holiday. The pilot survived. Schenck, whose father has never been found, was identified by a medallion he wore on a gold chain.

Israel backs sleep deprivation for suspects

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's Supreme Court has given security service interrogators the green light to deprive suspects of sleep in a bid to extract information and confessions. The court rejected Tuesday an appeal by a member of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) to be allowed to sleep at least six hours a day without interruption. Iman Adel Hijazi, suspected of helping prepare a suicide bombing of a Jerusalem bus which left four passengers dead on August 21, had been allowed only two hours of sleep after 48 hours under questioning, his lawyer Andre Rosenthal told the court. Another time, Mr. Hijazi was granted six hours sleep after 45 hours of interrogation, Mr. Rosenthal said. "It is a question of saving lives," replied Shai Nizan, for the state. "The aim of the interrogation is not so much to shed light on past events as to obtain information on serious events which may happen."

Qatar Airways to fly to Maldives

DUBAI (R) — Qatar Airways said on Wednesday it would start flights to the Maldives in October, the Qatari News Agency reported. It quoted chief executive Sheikh Hamad Ben Ali Ben Jaber Al Thani as saying Qatar Airways would use one of its two new Boeing 747s on the route. Sheikh Hamad said Qatar Airways also expected to start flights to Bangkok and Kathmandu in October. Qatar Airways was launched in 1994 in competition with Emirates airline of Dubai and regional carrier Gulf Air.

Arab American University in Jenin will be first of its kind, founder says

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Palestinian university being set up by a Jordanian group in the West Bank town of Jenin will be one of the unique institutions in the Middle East in that it will strive to maintain the standards of the renowned Stanislaus State University in California, one of its founders said Wednesday.

Stanislaus will be screening potential students through language tests before granting admission to the Jenin university, which, Mr. Irshid said, hopes to open its doors to about 600 to 650 students in October 1995.

The university will be owned by a group of Jordanian investors — most of them graduates of American universities — with a capital of JD 12.5 million (\$17.5 million). The total cost of the university is expected to be around \$20 million. Work has already started on the site after a mixture of Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian architectural styles has been adopted for the buildings.

The Palestinian National Authority based in the Gaza Strip has issued a letter of full support for the university and the U.S. State Department has also verbally indicated its backing.

"We will have all access to Stanislaus' facilities," said Mr. Irshid. "They are giving us E-mail facilities, and access to their computers and libraries in addition to their curricula and training of our teachers."

Marvalene Hughes, president of Stanislaus was recently quoted as saying that "I'm not aware that an American university has had an opportunity to help build a university from the ground up in another country."

"This is a conceptual idea at this time for development of a four-year comprehensive and graduate university using the American system of higher education as a model," said Ms. Hughes, who visited the region recently to finalize the arrangement.

"This will be a private university that is funded largely by Palestinians and Jordanians who are committed to their people," said the Stanislaus president. "They want to assure that high-quality education modelled on our system in the U.S. is available to their people."

According to Mr. Irshid, the university hopes to be "one of its kind in the Middle East because of its close association with the California institution."

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Cancelled summit clouds Northern Ireland peace process

DUBLIN (R) — Britain voiced disappointment on Wednesday at Ireland's decision to cancel a crucial Northern Ireland summit but stood firmly by its refusal to call all-party talks while IRA guerrillas hold on to their guns.

"It's obviously serious but it's something to be steady about. We're disappointed, we're slightly surprised to be honest," Britain's Northern Ireland secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, told British and Irish radio.

Sir Patrick said Irish Prime Minister John Bruton's abrupt decision to cancel Wednesday's summit less than 24 hours before it was supposed to start had thrown into doubt the setting up of an international panel to deal with the disarming impasse. Asked if such an international commission might still be set up, Sir Patrick was cool. "Well, I don't think that is necessarily the case," he said.

Sir Patrick said: "One thing is absolutely clear: people want to see their politicians

talking but the vast majority don't want them talking with a shadow of a gun falling over the table."

Ireland scuppered the summit because of British insistence that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and pro-British Protestant gunmen start shedding arsenals used in a war for and against British rule which stopped with twin ceasefires one year ago.

"The Irish government is not interested in setting pre-conditions for all-party talks, nor is the government interested in artificially postponing difficult questions," a government spokesman told Reuters late Tuesday night.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring said officials of the two governments were in touch Wednesday to try to "narrow the gap" between them over the crucial issue of "decommissioning" arms which has deadlocked the peace process for months.

Mr. Spring said Mr. Bruton was studying his diary to see if he could postpone or

shorten a planned visit to Canada starting Friday to attend a revived summit with Mr. major "sooner rather than later" — we would hope in a matter of days," he told Irish Radio.

He denied that the Irish government had buckled under pressure from Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, after three-hour talks in Dublin last week at which it spelled out its refusal to get involved in disarmament before all-party talks.

"The reality of our position is that we have to adopt a position which will bring all parties to the negotiating table," he told Irish Radio. Mr. Spring said one option under consideration to narrow the gap between Sinn Fein and the British government was a gesture by the IRA over shedding its stocks of ground to air missiles, Semtex plastic explosive and heavy machine guns.

Sources close to the peace process said the Irish government hoped Sinn Fein would get the IRA to issue a statement pledging not to

use weapons for offensive purposes or in a first strike.

But senior Sinn Fein spokesmen say this would be tantamount to a surrender by the guerrillas, who are still training and carrying out dummy attacks according to Irish security sources.

Mitchel McLaughlin, the Sinn Fein chairman, told Irish Radio that the idea of an international commission to defuse the crisis over disarming was pointless if it was just "another way of packaging an IRA surrender."

The summit failure made the prospect of an early holding of all-party Northern Ireland talks even more remote and underlined Mr. Major's limited room for manoeuvre because of domestic problems.

With only a single-digit majority in the British parliament, he relies on the support of Protestant Unionist parties, which want to keep Northern Ireland British and say they will never sit down with Sinn Fein while the IRA is a standing army.

Dole vows no compromise with Clinton

CHICAGO (AP) — In a blunt message to the White House and his Republican presidential rivals, Senate majority leader Bob Dole vowed Tuesday to "fight to the end for fundamental conservative change."

The Republican front-runner for the 1996 presidential race set the stage for battles over welfare and the budget as he aligned himself with economic conservatives.

"This will not be an autumn of compromise — make no mistake about it," Sen. Dole said in a speech to the Economic Club of Chicago. "This fall we will win our fight for revolutionary change vote by vote and bill by bill."

Mr. Clinton responded from California, saying, "there are those who say there should be no compromise this autumn, but I say that good people of good will want us to find common ground."

Answering concerns among conservatives that he may not be with them, Sen. Dole delivered a detailed critique of Mr. Clinton's

economic policies. He attacked moves ranging from the 1993 tax increase to what Sen. Dole derided as heavy-handed regulation that he said was slowing growth and holding back wages.

"The Clinton economy looks positively anemic," Sen. Dole said, leaving little doubt he believes Republicans can have the upper hand in 1996 on the centerpiece issue of Mr. Clinton's successful 1992 campaign.

Sen. Dole promised a programme that embodies opportunity and responsibility for our people — one that strives to create an economy which frees the genius of Americans from the heavy hand of government."

Part of that programme, he said, would be lower taxes and support for a constitutional amendment that would require a three-fifths vote in Congress to raise taxes.

Beyond that, however, Sen. Dole was heavy on optimistic rhetoric about the potential of the American worker and short on

specifics.

He rested support for scrapping "the whole twisted wreck" of federal tax law in favour of "lower and flatter rates."

But Sen. Dole did not endorse any of the competing versions of the flat tax that are gaining support among his fellow Republicans, including several presidential rivals.

That Sen. Dole was out of Washington at all on the day the Senate returned from its summer recess was evidence of the difficulty he faces juggling his dual — and sometimes competing — roles as Senate leader and White House hopeful.

He held the front-runner's position throughout the early 1995 jockeying, but was embarrassed last month by a poor showing in an Iowa straw poll, where he could muster only a tie with Texas Sen. Phil Gramm.

Sen. Dole blamed the showing on spending too little time in the state, but rivals believe the poor Iowa showing proved Sen. Dole's vulnerability.

U.N. ups to half million the number of N. Koreans made homeless by flooding

GENEVA (AP) — Half a million people have been made homeless by flooding in North Korea and nearly half the country's annual grain production has been destroyed, reports said.

U.N. relief teams said the latest homeless estimate was up from 150,000 reported by the United Nations last week.

On Tuesday, a Japanese news agency quoted a letter from North Korea to the Geneva-based International Federation of Red Cross Societies saying recent floods destroyed or damaged 1.9 million tonnes of grain, nearly half the annual production.

The floods late last month submerged 331,000 hectares (817,570 acres) of farmland, damaged 1,974 kilometres of irrigation canals and "harmed" 482,406 farm animals, Kyodo News Service quoted the letter as saying.

North Korea said a total of 1,901,000 tons of grain were damaged, the agency's Geneva-dated report said. The Red Cross estimates that North Korea annually produces from 4 million to 5 million tons of grain, it said.

Some 60-70 people are missing and feared dead after they were swept away by flash floods caused by recent heavy rains, North Korean officials have told the relief teams, who have been assessing damage in the isolated country since last week.

Madeleine Moulin-Acevedo, spokeswoman for the U.N. Department of Humanitarian Affairs, said the teams had not yet been able to estimate total damage. But just in Chagan province, northeast of the capital Pyongyang, the team assessed flood and landslide damage to houses, schools,

hospitals and cropland at \$1.8 billion.

The North Korean government originally estimated the floods from rains in July and August caused \$15 billion in damage throughout the country of more than 21 million people.

So far the U.N. team has visited three of the most affected areas — Hwanghae, north Pyongyang and Chagan provinces, a department report said.

It said Huichon city, 120 kilometres northeast of Pyongyang, had recorded 1,230 millimetres of rain last month, with some 442 millimetres falling on Aug. 17-18.

The U.N. team said North Korean needs donations of warm clothing and fabric, blankets and quilts, kitchen utensils, medicines and food, mainly rice.

Greece, Macedonia to sign accord on dispute

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Greece is ready to lift its economic embargo against Macedonia as part of an agreement aimed at resolving a longstanding dispute with the former Yugoslav republic, a U.N. mediator said Tuesday.

The foreign ministers of Greece and Macedonia plan to meet next week at the United Nations to conclude the agreement, Cyrus Vance said.

Greece has refused to recognise its northern neighbour as Macedonia, claiming the former Yugoslav republic usurped the name. The republic declared independence in 1991.

Greece also has demanded that Macedonia drop an ancient Greek symbol from its flag and amend its constitution to remove references which Greece says reflect terri-

torial claims.

Macedonia is asking for an end to the embargo Greece imposed in 1994 to press Macedonia into changing its flag and constitution. Mr. Vance said Greece was prepared to lift the embargo.

"The agreement will resolve the outstanding issues between the two countries and I hope will form the basis of future friendly relations between the parties," Mr. Vance said.

The agreement "covers all of the items except a final decision on what the name will be," he added.

Mr. Vance would not give specific details of the agreement, but said it covers such things as the question of the constitution, the question of the borders, the question of the flag."



The crew of Soyuz TM-22 spacecraft; German Astronaut Thomas Reiter (left), Russian cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko (center) and Sergei Avdeev (right) and the crew of the space station Mir (background) give a brief press conference aboard the station after their successful docking (AFP photo)

No sexy Martini commercials, please — we're British

LONDON (AFP) — British television has banned a commercial for Martini since it supposedly links alcohol with sex appeal, a spokesman said at the Independent Television Commission (ITC). The commercial, used in a number of other European countries, shows a young woman who gets up to walk toward an attractive Martini-drinking man. Her miniskirt catches on the chair and starts to unravel, gradually revealing her bare posterior. The commission has not received any complaints, but ruled that the commercial ran counter to its rules against advertising that suggests that drinking alcohol increases sex appeal.

Sri Lanka begins 'women-only' bus service

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka has launched a "women-only" bus service following complaints that women were sexually harassed and sometimes molested using public transport, Transport Board Chairman Ramal Sriwardena said. The "women-only" buses — with a male crew

— will operate on six routes to take office workers between the capital Colombo and its suburbs, said Mr. Sriwardena.

Reiter, 37, Avdeev, 39,

and Gidzenko, the 33-year-old mission commander, are scheduled to return to Earth on Jan. 16.

Reiter, the mission's flight engineer, plans a five-hour space walk Oct. 20, the first for an ESA astronaut. He'll also take part in a docking this fall between the Mir and the U.S. space shuttle Atlantis.

Manchester, England — across the Baltic sea?

DUBLIN (AP) — Question: What do Minsk and Manchester have in common — aside from the letter m, the north, lots of industry, and plenty of bad weather?

Answer: The Irish teenager headed for England who ended up in the Belarusian capital. Anne Keane checked in at an Aer Lingus desk at Dublin's Shannon Airport on Aug. 21, saying she was on the B.A. (British Airways) flight to Manchester, England, a statement from the Irish airline said.

In February Ms. Bhutto used a similar tactic to gain control of the Northwest Frontier Province legislature. Like the Punjab, Mr. Leghari dismissed the Frontier government run by her opponents. After several weeks of wheeling and dealing, Ms. Bhutto's party garnered enough ballots to win a vote of confidence.

The balance was tipped by independent legislators.

In Pakistan's rough-and-tumble politics, where large sums of money often are used as an incentive to gain support, politicians regularly switch sides.

In the Punjab, Ms. Bhutto is expected to try to win over independent legislators and disgruntled members of Mr. Wattoo's Pakistan Muslim League.

Analysts say Ms. Bhutto is likely to try to muster

enough votes for her party to win an outright majority in a vote of confidence in Punjab. The vote would probably take place before the end of the two-month governor's term.

Analysts say the president is likely to be re-elected next year.

The two parties still have a monopoly on access to the voters and a fairly firm fix on the campaign funds, so it's hard to see anybody winning without a huge amount of money and name recognition," he said. Mr. Alston noted that billionaire Ross Perot has both won only 20 per cent of the vote when he ran as an independent in 1992.

But even without a direct challenge, the exodus puts Clinton leadership credentials in doubt and could cost him votes in the 1996 elections.

Since the 1994 elections, some 100 Democrats have switched parties at the federal and local levels, an unprecedented number.

According to Mr. Van Dyke, who also notes that those choosing to leave office have "never been as highly visible as this."

The five Democrats already retiring include Paul Simon of Illinois, David Pryor of Arkansas, Bennett Johnston of Louisiana, James Exon of Nebraska and Howell Heflin of Alabama.

Those who defected include senators Richard Shelby of Alabama and Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado.

"It's very hard to take on

Russian rocket with Euromir crew docks with the Mir

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian Soyuz TM-22 rocket with a European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut and two Russian cosmonauts aboard docked right on schedule Tuesday with the Mir orbiting space station.

About two hours after the rendezvous, at 1230 GMT, the hatch opened and German astronaut Thomas Reiter and Russian cosmonauts Sergei Avdeev and Yuri Gidzenko joined the two-man crew aboard the Mir.

The German cosmonaut looks just great, I can see him on the screen now, and he couldn't look better, mission control specialist Valery Lyndin said.

This is the second ESA

Pakistan president sacks Punjab assembly

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — President Farooq Leghari abruptly dismissed the provincial Punjab government charging rampant corruption and incompetence, news reports said Wednesday.

The dismissal orders were issued late Tuesday and have been widely condemned by opposition politicians as well as some of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's political allies.

The dismissal will effect her coalition government at the centre. Her biggest partner is an ally of the deposed Punjab Chief Minister Manzoor Wattoo.

"This new development could be harmful for the smooth function of democracy in the country," Hamid Nasir Chatta, Ms. Bhutto's coalition partner, was quoted as saying in the independent national newspaper, The News.

Meanwhile, Mr. Leghari gave control of Punjab to the governor, Raja Saroof, a retired army general. Punjab is Pakistan's most prosperous province and home to more than 60 per cent of the country's 120 million people.

Analysts say the president is likely to try to muster

enough votes for her party to win an outright majority in a vote of confidence in Punjab. The vote would probably take place before the end of the two-month governor's term.

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Those who defected include senators Richard Shelby of Alabama and Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado.

"It's very hard to take on

the major parties and win," he said.

"The two parties still have a monopoly on access to the voters and a fairly firm fix on the campaign funds, so it's hard to see anybody winning without a huge amount of money and name recognition," he said. Mr. Alston noted that billionaire Ross Perot has both won only 20 per cent of the vote when he ran as an independent in 1992.

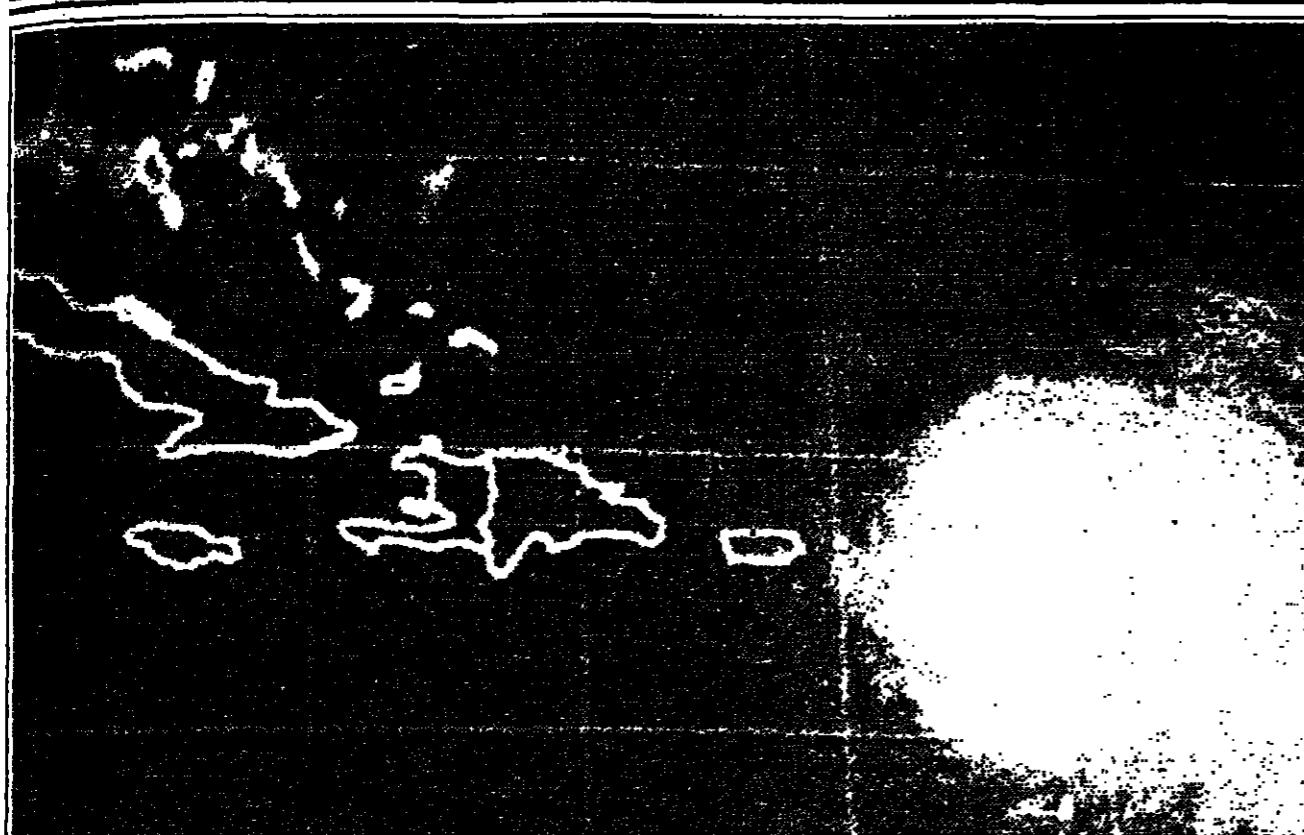
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This photograph from the National Hurricane Centre shows hurricane Luis heading towards Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (AFP photo)

Hurricane rakes small islands, heads for Puerto Rico

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands (R) — Hurricane Luis ripped through Antigua and other islands of the northeastern Caribbean and aimed its swirling winds at the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico Wednesday.

Although reports were sketchy because of downed telephone lines, a spokesman for Antigua Prime Minister Lester Bird told a Trinidad radio station that about 65 per cent of the buildings on the island of 65,000 residents had been severely damaged.

"We've had a lot of damage," Antigua government spokesman Norman Gus Thomas said. "This was a mammoth hurricane compared to Hugo," he added, referring to the 1989 killer storm.

There were no initial reports of deaths on the twin island republic of Antigua and Barbuda, but the Caribbean News Agency reported two boys were injured by a collapsing roof. A Dominica fisherman was feared dead after trying

to save his boat Tuesday, and a tourist died in Guadalupe Monday.

Hundreds were left homeless on Antigua, roofs were peeled off scores of buildings, including one emergency shelter, and some structures were flipped upside down by wind gusts clocked at up to 175 mph (282 kph), according to Puerto Rico Gov. Pedro Rossello, who agreed to send some emergency supplies.

"The hurricane in Antigua has been devastating," Mr. Rossello told reporters, adding that he had spoken with Antigua's prime minister in a brief and static-filled telephone call.

Some of the flattened buildings were at tourist resorts overlooking Antigua's Barrier Reef, a famed snorkeling area. Other hotels were flooded from rising seawater or *blinding rain* of more than 12 inches (30 cm), according to amateur radio operators monitoring transmitters from Antigua.

At 11 p.m. EDT (0300

GMT), Luis' winds eased to 125 mph (205 kph), but its huge diameter of 700 miles (1,126 km) remained a threat for islands in its path. Luis was 55 miles (90 km) north of St. Maarten, moving northwest at 8 mph (13 kph).

The storm began battering the U.S. Virgin Islands early Wednesday, a pounding likely to last about 12 hours, according to forecasters. A slight turn to the north was expected to keep Luis' centre off Puerto Rico, but the island would still feel hurricane-force winds.

A shipment of 5,000 tons of medical supplies was to be flown to Antigua from Trinidad, after the government managed to get word out that its hospital was badly damaged.

On Anguilla, a 90 square-kilometre island, houses were destroyed and parked airplanes were blown off the airport runway, said Billy Penn, a spokesman for the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Puerto Rico. Emergency aid for all of the Leeward Islands was

being coordinated by the U.S. State Department's Office of Federal Disaster Assistance, Mr. Penn said.

The hurricane left tens of thousands of Caribbean residents without electricity, running water or telephones.

Thousands in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico crowded into emergency shelters as Luis' outer bands of tropical force-winds licked at the islands.

Forecasters said current weather patterns would likely steer Luis safely out to sea after passing Puerto Rico.

Many residents were well prepared for Luis because of vivid memories of hurricanes Hugo and Andrew, which rampaged through the Caribbean and through south Florida, respectively.

Hugo caused billions of dollars damage and killed more than two dozen when it screamed through the Caribbean in 1989. Andrew, the costliest hurricane in U.S. history, caused \$25 billion damage and 38 deaths in suburban Miami in 1992.

Mexico peace talks reopen on government offer

SAN ANDRES LARRAIN-ZAR, Mexico (R) — The Mexican government and Zapatista guerrillas returned to the negotiating table Tuesday and were expected to lock horns on an offer to include the rebels in wider national talks on political reform.

Ten rebel commanders travelled from mountain and jungle bases to this poor highlands town in the southern state of Chiapas to sit down with Interior Ministry negotiators.

The start of talks was overshadowed by an outbreak of violence Monday in the village of Nuevo Limar, 70 kilometres to the north, which increased political tensions.

Several hundred support-

ers of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) took 25 people hostage and burned at least 15 houses in the village, stronghold of support for the opposition leftist Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), human rights workers said.

A spokeswoman for the Roman Catholic Church-run Fray Bartolome De Las Casas Human Rights Centre said the hostages were later released.

Five previous rounds of Chiapas peace talks have stalled as the Zapatistas have demanded nationwide reforms such as fair elections while the government has insisted any accord be limited to the state where the rebels took up arms.

In a bid to break the dead-

lock, President Ernesto Zedillo last weekend offered to give the rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) a seat at all-party talks on national democratic reforms.

A spokesman for Mr. Zedillo said nothing had been worked out yet on how exactly the guerrillas would take part in national talks, but he said the government may not necessarily insist on them giving up their weapons first.

The government's chief negotiator, Marco Antonio Bernal, said late Monday that the Zapatistas had been aiming too high with their demands.

Rebel leaders say the talks in San Andres are "exhausted" in their current form and

have called on political parties and civilian groups to join the peace process.

A group of rebel commanders this week said they wanted more precise details of Mr. Zedillo's offer before agreeing to join national democracy talks and insisted they would not lay down their weapons until their demands for indigenous rights and greater democracy have been met.

The Zapatistas launched their rebellion on New Year's Day, 1994, and at least 150 people were killed in the first 10 days. There has been virtually no fighting since then and the Zapatistas' influence has been on the wane in recent months.

Ambush underscores Angola's fragile peace

LUANDA (AP) — An ambush that killed at least seven diamond miners is the latest in a series of violent incidents that show how rogue soldiers are threatening Angola's shaky peace process.

The seven miners — four Angolans and three Filipinos — died and eight others were injured Friday when gunmen ambushed their truck as it left the Nututi Mine near the provincial capital Luanda before dawn, mine officials said.

The government military claimed 24 miners, including five Filipinos and two Britons, had died. It blamed the attack on UNITA, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, which last November signed peace accords with the government to end 20 years of civil war.

But the British embassy denied any Britons were among the victims. A mine official, who accompanied the wounded back to Luanda, cited the lesser casualty toll.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, quoted one kidnapped worker who then escaped as say-

ing the assailants were rogue UNITA troops. Others among the wounded pinned the blame on "ninjas," the local nickname for government crack police troops.

U.N. envoy Alioune Blondin Beye told reporters Tuesday there were indications the incident could have been a clash between rival diamond mining companies. He declined to name the firms.

"Whoever did it, it is symptomatic that across vast tracts of the country there is no law other than gun law," said Andrew Manley, an Angolan watcher for the London-based Economist Intelligence Unit.

"It shows there are deep faults in the peace process," he added. "It will be quite a while before there can be a return to any kind of normalcy."

The diamond-rich Lunda provinces, deep in the country's interior, have become Angola's "wild east" since the peace accords were signed.

Former South African army officers, who once fought alongside UNITA, now help guard state-owned diamond mines run with the

help of foreigners.

Rogue rebel and government troops frequently stage ambushes and make off with hauls of gems, although Friday's attack was one of the bloodiest so far.

Under the peace plan, a new army of 90,000 is to be formed from the 180,000 armed troops currently fielded by both sides.

But their demobilisation and fusion is to be overseen by a 7,000-plus force of U.N. peacekeepers and, so far, only about a half of the promised blue helmets have arrived.

The first 100 Brazilian peacekeepers landed at Luanda Airport Tuesday and a ship carrying another 100 was expected to dock in port later in the day.

The Brazilian contingent of engineers, to be posted in Calomboloca, 70 kilometres outside Luanda, is to specialise in repairing roads and bridges wrecked by the war.

But even with the full U.N. force in place, it will be difficult to control rogue elements who earn their living by what Mr. Manley calls "freelancing."

Senate supports Clinton's total nuclear test ban

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate gave tacit support Tuesday to President Bill Clinton's policy to ban all U.S. nuclear tests.

In a compromise proposed by Sen. James Exon, it kept \$50 million in a \$265 billion defence authorisation bill to prepare for experimental tests but added a provision by voice vote specifying that the bill did not authorise such tests.

The Nebraska Democrat said the bill allows preparation for the tests only in case a proposed international comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty is not approved next year.

Mr. Clinton announced on Aug. 11 that the United States wants international approval of a test ban treaty permitting no tests, not even experimental ones with explosions equivalent to about four pounds of TNT.

The Senate faced a vote later Tuesday on whether to compromise on a U.S. anti-missile defence plan that Clinton administration officials say would violate the 1972 U.S.-Soviet anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty.

The Nebraska Democrat said the bill allows preparation for the tests only in case a proposed international comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty is not approved next year.

The White House threatened to veto the proposal.

Officials including Secretary of State Warren Christopher said it would violate the ABM treaty and so risk

defence against limited missile attacks but back off on provisions Clinton advisers say would violate the ABM treaty.

The Senate voted 51-49 last month in favour of a new U.S. policy in the bill for constructing a number of anti-missile missile sites by 2003 to defend against limited missile attacks even though the ABM treaty allows just one.

The White House threatened to veto the proposal. Officials including Secretary of State Warren Christopher said it would violate the ABM treaty and so risk

with two treaties reducing long-range nuclear weapons.

The compromise would order development of the "multiple site" anti-missile defence for construction by 2003 but require a decision later on whether actually to build it.

It would also direct Mr. Clinton to seek negotiations with Russia on revising the ABM treaty to permit the U.S. multi-site system and, if negotiations fail, to consult with Congress on legally withdrawing from the treaty.

participants still being followed, photographed and videoed, and materials being confiscated.

Certain NGO delegates were also under heavy surveillance by agents from their own countries, including Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Sudan, they said.

Despite the abuses, Sane urged a refocusing of attention on the issues now under debate by delegations at the inter-governmental conference that opened in Beijing Monday.

He urged delegations to remove some 651 brackets remaining around disputed sections of the draft platform for action, saying "it is astounding at this stage that the document is still laced with fundamental inconsistencies."

ombudsman, created in 1968 by Swedish publications to give people a way to rebut media reports, he said.

That suggestion was dismissed by the ombudsman, Arne Jigenius, who said his office already urges publications to print rebuttals. He has not yet received a complaint from the Nobel Committee.

One of the reporters on the project, Bo G. Andersson, also scoffed at the Nobel suggestion.

"I'm not at all afraid of a discussion of our ethics," Mr. Andersson said. "And this shows how dangerous this (investigation) must be for them."

Mr. Andersson said the core issue is secrecy, which makes it possible to abuse the Nobel Prize selection process.

This year's six prizes each are worth about \$987,000 and will be announced in the first half of October. Five were created by industrialist Alfred Nobel in 1901, and Nobel Memorial Prize in economics was added in 1968.

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Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7-8, 1995

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Little to celebrate

ISRAEL'S POMPOUS celebration of the 3000th anniversary of King David's takeover of Jerusalem Tuesday was an act of provocation of the first order. King David was not the first, nor the last leader who conquered the Holy City. The mere fact that the Jews conquered Jerusalem implies that it had belonged to another people before them. Sure enough, those people were the Canaanite Arabs, who were the first to inhabit the city.

The Jews were one of many nations and religions that captured Jerusalem and made it their capital. Jerusalem fell into Arab and Muslim hands in the seventh century and continued to remain under their domination until the 11th century, when the Crusaders wrested it from them. In 1187, however, Saladdin recaptured the city and it remained effectively under Islamic rule until World War I, when the Ottoman Empire was defeated by the Allied powers and Jerusalem came under direct British colonial rule till 1948.

The decision, therefore, to mark Israelis' control of the city can only invite other nations and religions to commemorate their own periodic capture of Jerusalem. The end result is to rekindle old wounds that may arouse afresh old religious rivalries and animosities.

Whatever the length or timing of their control of the city, the early Israelites cannot stake a unilateral claim to a place that is equally holy to Christians and Muslims. Both Muslims and Christians have grounds to celebrate the capture of the city in one era or another.

No wonder that only a few nations represented in Israel had accepted Israel's official invitation to take part in Tuesday's celebrations. Even Washington and other major Western capitals boycotted these provocative festivities. The message being that the Israelis' claim to the occupied city in its entirety is illegal, unacceptable and will never be recognised. We cannot but express our satisfaction with the decision of the international community to cast a negative vote on Israel's deliberate policy of antagonising the Muslim and Christian worlds on such a burning and sensitive issue as that of Jerusalem.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i's Wednesday described NATO air strikes against Serbian positions in the former Yugoslavia as helping the Western powers to regain credibility in the eyes of the world. In reviewing the atrocities committed by the Serbs against the Bosnians, Tawfiq Abu Rub said that the Serbs were supported by the Russians for ethnic and religious considerations over the past three years during which the NATO powers refrained from taking any action to deter the aggressors. The world was shocked at these attitudes on the part of the major world powers and felt pessimistic about NATO's obvious indifference to the military operations, said the writer. But in the light of the recent sweeping Croat attacks, which seemed to be supported by NATO, and the Alliance's effective air strikes against the Serbs the world began to see a new light and a new hope for an imminent end to the sufferings of the Bosnians and an approach to a settlement to the ethnic conflict in the embattled nation, added the writer.

A WRITER in Al Dustour Wednesday described Israel's celebrations of the 3000th anniversary of King David's conquest of the city as a severe blow to the Arabs and Muslims because it consecrates the Jewish state's denial of other religions' rights to Jerusalem. Mohammad Kawash said that Jerusalem holds the key to peace and war, noting that none of the invaders of the city over the centuries was able to settle permanently in it, and the invaders had to leave no matter how long they stayed there. The writer said that the ceremonies staged in the city are bound to inflame the feelings of Arabs and Muslims because these celebrations constitute provocation that could jeopardise the peace process. The Rabin government, said the writer, says "no Israel without Jerusalem" but we say "no peace without Jerusalem." Tampering with the Jerusalem question, he said, is like playing with fire.

The View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

Courteous motoring: A possible solution to an ongoing crisis

ONE MAJOR cause of the deteriorating traffic situation in our society is the behaviour of the motorists themselves. It is a fact that a significant number of our road-users drive rudely and too aggressively, thus making driving on our roads extremely uncomfortable, risky and life-threatening.

The overall percentage of reckless drivers throughout the Kingdom is indeed quite high. Judging from what one actually sees on the road, one would not be exaggerating to say that at least half of our motorists drive in a manner which is not at all acceptable.

I say the "overall" percentage because not all those who drive rudely, aggressively or recklessly think of themselves (or actually are) rude, aggressive or reckless drivers. The motives and psychologies of motorists who "misbehave" on the road are obviously complex, even though the result or outcome is the same.

It may be beneficial, for the purpose of accuracy, to distinguish between rude, aggressive and reckless drivers and those who drive rudely, aggressively and recklessly, the first category refers to those motorists who are consciously and deliberately violating the codes of decency and safety. They are careless, insensitive, playful, silly, suicidal, impolite, subversive, sadistic and misguided individuals who are what they are for a variety of reasons. Their behaviour on the road is no different from their behaviour in the office, at home and in the neighbourhood. Whether we like it or not, there are bad people out there.

The second category comprises those people who think they are forced to behave rudely, aggressively and recklessly. Deepdown, such people are civil, nice, polite, altruistic, hospitable, unselfish and so forth. You meet them at work, at home and in the neighbourhood and you find them extremely courteous, likeable, reasonable, sensitive, etc. But out there on the road, they are entirely different. The minute they drive, a demon, a monster, a vampire, a werewolf or a ghoul possesses them.

The reasons standing behind such remarkable transformation in the behaviour of individuals belonging to this

category vary from one person to another, but two seem to stand out above the rest. The first has to do with the conception (to a great extent a misconception) of what a "good" driver is in our society and the second with the desire among motorists to defend and assert themselves.

If you listen to people in informal gatherings (forget the formal in which people say what they ought to say not what they really feel and think), a "good" motorist is the one who drives fast, who is extremely skillful, who zigzags on a highway, who gets extremely close to hitting the vehicle in front of him before passing it, who does not let anyone pass him, who puts one hand on the steering wheel and lets the other hang out of the window casually — not the one who gives the right of way to others, who sticks to his own lane, who drives at a normal speed, who is alert, who is open-minded, who is civil and courteous, who drives safely, etc. This is the image many people in our society try to live up to. It is interesting, linguistically and culturally, that the "good" driver is referred to in many circles as the "bitter" driver. This is, of course, the greatest compliment you can imagine. Sadly, many of our motorists are "bitter" indeed.

Other motorists behave the way they behave because they believe that you cannot survive on our roads unless you become aggressive, rude and reckless. Many of them believe in a saying which is widely quoted in our society, a saying which is at times true but at times false: If you do not become a wolf, wolves will eat you. To apply this saying on the road is, in my opinion, a big mistake. We cannot remedy a misbehaviour by a misbehaviour. On the road, people are not judged according to their reasons and motives, but according to their performance. A motorist who behaves rudely is ultimately rude. But he is also dangerous, and is contributing to the messy road situation from which we are all suffering. Those motorists who provoke you on the road are misguided, irresponsible and stupid; and if you respond in kind, they are turning you (without your knowing it) into a misguided, irresponsible and (excuse me for saying it) stupid motorist. What do they

care? Unfortunately, drivers belonging to the two categories are to be found anywhere and everywhere in our society — in the city and in the countryside, among the illiterate as well as the educated, among the young as well as the old, among the men as well as the women, among the rich as well as the poor, among the ugly as well as the handsome, among those who drive the brand new Mercedes and BMW as well as those who drive the old Subaru and Lada, etc.

The solution here lies in the hand of the motorists themselves, i.e. you and I. Let's forget the authorities for the time being. Let's forget what the police can and cannot do and ask ourselves (us the caring and responsible) what we can do.

The solution is simply to be courteous. Yes, even to those who are rude and unnecessarily aggressive. If someone is in a hurry, justifiably or not, let us give them the right of way, even if the right of way is ours. If someone tries to provoke us, let them go in peace. If someone is speeding maniacally behind us, let's make room for them (even pull over, if we have to) and let them pass. If we behave in a civil, courteous manner towards others, we may make them feel a little ashamed of themselves and thus rethink their behaviour, or at least avoid an accident. But we if we put it in our head to be courteous, cool and to take it easy, we may spare ourselves the psychological trauma that comes as a result of our response to provocation. There is nothing to be gained from responding in kind to provocation but harm, discomfort and danger. The worst thing that can happen to us on the road is to be emotional about others' behaviour and to drive and respond instinctively. Let our minds, our reason, our politeness and our civil manners and spirit guide our behaviour.

We descend from a hospitable, courteous culture. Let's be ourselves. Let's deal with other motorists the way we deal with guests in our homes. This is something we can do, if we put our mind to it. There is nothing to lose but much to gain.

Jerusalem, Orient House and Palestinian labels on school textbooks. The arguments will exercise no influence over the way in which Palestinians and international public opinion regard Orient House as the political centre of the Palestinian people in what may be the future capital of the Palestinian state.

Teddy Kollek suggested that the Palestinian capital should be in Ramallah. Before 1949, Golda Meir proposed Haifa as Israel's capital, while Ben-Gurion suggested Kurnub, a site in the Negev. Such ideas are quickly consigned to the dustbin of history.

The idea that Jerusalem can serve as the capital of both Israel and of Palestine has been attacked as impractical and unprecedented. This is arguable. But the status quo is also impractical. It pertained in the territories for 27 years, but in the end of the reality proved stronger than the occupation. Sooner or later Jerusalemites will have to learn to share the city peacefully.

Amos Elon wrote some four years before the 3000 festivities that "Jerusalem is a city loved too well and yet never quite wisely... Almost everywhere you turn, the chords of memory swell the chorus of nationalism and faith. A little forgetfulness — or compromise — seems unlikely under these circumstances."

Compromise in Jerusalem entails not a decision to give up our sovereignty, but a readiness to enter into a partnership with others in mutual recognition. That would be "loving wisely."

employment. He also wanted to foster the all-important "social cohesion."

How you define social cohesion, however, depends to a large extent on how you define the "social fracturing" to which Mr. Chirac repeatedly alludes. Mr. Chirac and Mr. Juppé seem to share a very traditional perception of social division between haves and have-nots; "capitalists" and "workers." This is the narrow view.

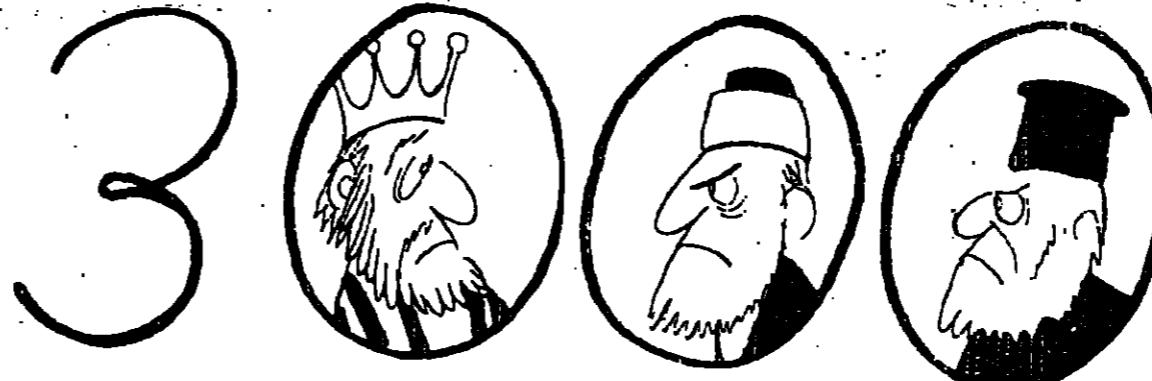
Mr. Madelin sees the social fracturing in different — his advisers contend, more "modern" — terms, as between those who are "protested" and those who are "exposed". In the first group are not so much the "bosses" as the bosses of state-protected enterprises and those in secure (often public sector or state subsidised) employment. In the second are entrepreneurs, small businessmen, as well as those who cannot penetrate the establishment world of "secure" work.

Mr. Madelin's idea of social cohesion would entail not only improving the conditions of those in the "exposed" sector, but challenging some of the advantages enjoyed by those in the "protected" sector.

The *Independent*

Loving wisely

MEIR RONEN ©95



as claiming that 3,000 years of Judaism since King David carries more weight than 2,000 years of Christianity, or 1,400 years of Islam. Faith can't be measured by putting the data into a computer and pulling out the results of the calculation.

The view that because we were here first we have exclusive political rights in Jerusalem is about as logic-

By Mary Dejevsky

THE RESIGNATION (read dismissal) of Alain Madelin as French minister of economics last week has been followed in France with much the same incredulous fascination as greeted the resignation in 1989 of Nigel Lawson as British Chancellor of the Exchequer, even though Mr. Madelin, and the government he served, have been in office for barely three months.

The sin the minister committed was his questioning, on a widely heard radio programme, of the perks and pension benefits enjoyed by the public sector. This unleashed a clamour of fury from the powerful state sector just when the prime minister needed its cooperation over plans to overhaul the social security system.

But neither that, nor even the undoubted clash of personalities and wills between Mr. Madelin and the prime minister, Alain Juppé, fully explains the *frisson* of this incident. The fact is that Mr. Madelin and Mr. Juppé between them seem to have proved President Jacques Chirac's many critics right — and far sooner than anyone imagined. The critics had said that Mr. Chirac's twin policy priori-

ties — creating jobs and cutting the domestic budget deficit — were irreconcilable. Within three months it seems to have become clear that one of these projects had to take precedence: Mr. Juppé thought it should be social cohesion and job creation; Mr. Madelin thought it should be cutting the deficit. Mr. Juppé won.

There is room for different interpretations of what happened and why. The kindest view is that Mr. Juppé always intended, and still intends, to change the way the French labour market operates, but believes that everything could be lost if the public sector and the unions get wind of what he really has in mind. According to this view, Mr. Madelin's only fault was to be too frank. As one French commentator put it, he acted like a "bull in a china shop" while Mr. Juppé moves "like a cat with velvet paws."

That theory might have some substance had Mr. Madelin appeared to be

also incapable of being put into effect on the ground — except by force. And as we know from the lessons of the intifada, there are limits to the efficacy of force.

Our case would be stronger were it not for our record of discriminating in international law, they

since 1967 in every sphere of life. For example, approximately one third of the population who pay their taxes receive less than 10 per cent of the budget for municipal services.

Much energy is being wasted in skirmishes over the legality or otherwise of

East Jerusalemites

employment. He also wanted to foster the all-important "social cohesion." How you define social cohesion, however, depends to a large extent on how you define the "social fracturing" to which Mr. Chirac repeatedly alludes. Mr. Chirac and Mr. Juppé seem to share a very traditional perception of social division between haves and have-nots; "capitalists" and "workers." This is the narrow view.

Mr. Madelin sees the social fracturing in different — his advisers contend, more "modern" — terms, as between those who are "protested" and those who are "exposed". In the first group are not so much the "bosses" as the bosses of state-protected enterprises and those in secure (often public sector or state subsidised) employment. In the second are entrepreneurs, small businessmen, as well as those who cannot penetrate the establishment world of "secure" work.

Mr. Madelin's idea of social cohesion would entail not only improving the conditions of those in the "exposed" sector, but challenging some of the advantages enjoyed by those in the "protected" sector.

The *Independent*



SOCIETY ON THE MOVE
Converging on Amman as part of MENA mania

It is still unclear whether Prime Minister of Japan Tomiichi Murayama's planned tour of the Middle East region will include a stop in Jordan. The Japanese government leader is said to be particularly keen to have an audience with His Majesty King Hussein and while it is uncertain whether His Majesty will actually be in Amman at the time of the visit which is scheduled to start on Sept. 14, Tokyo is still on hold. What is near certain, though, is the nearly sudden visit planned by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. Considered as "very important," the visit by Mr. Gonzalez and his as yet unnamed accompanying team, is expected to be a dual-mission attached, as well, to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit scheduled to convene in Amman next month and the Barcelona conference on the European Union (EU) Mediterranean policy, which is scheduled for November. First, as Spain holds the current presidency of the EU, Mr. Gonzalez' trip means that the EU is coming for a meeting with His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian leadership. And second, the Spanish premier comes on a bilateral mission to further solidify Jordanian-Spanish relations. Both missions, observers say, are a confirmation of the importance attached to Jordan and its role in the Middle East.

WINEP & COMPANY: And from the land of the "peace broker," the United States, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy (WINEP), the Washington-based organization which describes itself as "a public charitable foundation committed to scholarly research and informed debate on ways to build peace, security and prosperity in the Middle East," has linked up with Jordan's Institute of Diplomacy to convene its annual policy conference in Amman — "our first-ever conference in an Arab capital city," says WINEP Executive Director Robert Satloff. That it is the institute's first such forum in the Arab World is attributable to the signing of the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty because, until that event, the work of WINEP has been, and most certainly continues, to be guided by an agenda bent on Israeli interests. Dr. Satloff, who succeeded Martin Indyk (now U.S. ambassador to Israel) as head of WINEP, has pulled together a serious roster of speakers to evaluate the Jordan-Israel peace experience one year on to assess the potential of building on the model of that agreement to promote regional security and economic development. Those speakers are to include His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdul Karim Kabriti, the Kingdom's ambassador to Israel, Marwan Muasher, Israeli Ambassador to Jordan Shimon Shamir, Abdullah Toukan, science advisor to King Hussein, General David Ivri, director-general of Israel's ministry of defence, Ambassador Samuel Lewis, former ambassador to Israel and former U.S. State Department policy planning director. Among the other participants expected to attend are former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Sisco (who in the early 70's drew shouts of "Lia, Lia Sisco!" from masses of Jordanians protesting a mission he was sent on at the time to the Middle East); Vice President of the military aerospace giant Northrop-Grumman James Roche; former staff director of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Graeme Bannerman; and Director of the Rand Corporation's Middle East Programme and a former under-secretary of defence Zalmay Khalilzad. This latter group would appear to be the one most interested in what Dr. Satloff said was another objective of the conference: to "examine the U.S. role in ensuring the success of the Jordan-Israel peace effort and in building upon that achievement for wider peace process objectives."

MILES FROM HOME: From the South American continent, Brazilian Foreign Ministry Assistant Secretary General Evan Canbrava, who is concluding a three-day visit today after preparing for official Brazilian participation at

Russian readers swept away by steamy sagas

By Angela Charlton
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — On Moscow's crowded subway, a woman sits reading intently, locked in "The Never-ending Embrace." Nearby stands a teen-age girl, swept away in "A Hurricane of Temptation."

These absorbed readers have caught on to Russia's latest, if less than greatest, literary trend: The romance novel.

"We all need something sexy after hearing about Yeltsin or Grachev all day," said Natalya Volkova, referring to the

president and his defence minister. She sells dozens of the steamy sagas daily from her makeshift bookstall inside the Kievskaya metro station.

Wearied by recent years of economic hardship, Russian readers are snubbing weightier classics and happily abandoning themselves to a world of breathless beauties and cunning casanovas.

"He grabbed her, his lips caressing her face," reads a passage from "Enchanted Sunset" by Jo Colloway, the story of a handsome stranger who sweeps into an Oregon

town and cures a heartbroken anthropologist.

The popularity of these novels, mostly Russian translations of Western titles, extends far beyond Volkova's stall.

On a recent bestseller list compiled weekly, six of the capital's top 10 fiction paperbacks were romance novels. "Danielle Steele is becoming our new hero," Gennady Kuzminov, who compiles the lists for the Moscow weekly *Knizhnoye Obozreniye*, said of the author.

But enterprising Russian writers have tuned in to the widespread popularity of these formulaic, quickly written novels too, and are diving into the realm of unbridled passions themselves.

Aficionados of these amorous adventures are quick to emphasize that the books' appeal is romance, not sex.

"If we were sex-crazed, we would buy those magazines," said romance reader Vera Krylatova, referring to the pornographic publications that line kiosks across the country.

The primly dressed Ms. Krylatova waited for a subway train immersed in "Echoes of a Past Love,"

in which she said the heroes spend the majority of the novel thousands of kilometres apart, instead of in each other's arms — or beds.

"It makes me feel good. That's why I read it," the 55-year-old chemist said.

She's not alone. Six other people stood nearby on the subway platform nearby absorbed by romance novels — including one middle-aged man.

"It's something easy to read," said the bearded man, slightly embarrassed as he quickly stashed the love story in his pocket.

Titles lining passengers' laps in the subway reflect the shifts in Russia's literary marketplace.

Under the cold care of Soviet censors, readers were "protected" from such dangerous literature as Western thrillers, pornography and detective novels. Subway passengers clutched Russian classics, the Communist Party daily *Pravda* or one of the many thick Soviet literary journals.

Glasnost and the collapse of Soviet Union freed authors from political censorship, but they

brought an economic freedom many writers might now prefer to surrender.

The prose sections of Moscow's *Dom Knigi*, which means house of books, once the capital's main bookstore, are dominated by translations of Western romance and detective novels. Its philosophy department boasts rows of self-help books, and only two works by Karl Marx.

The popularity of the passion-filled pot boilers may have as much to do with the mood of the readers as the market. Too

burned out by everyday concerns arising from inflation and instability to tackle "War and Peace," many are turning to escapist romances.

"Such publications are the tumour of our society," said Timur Pulatov, chairman of the International Association of Writers' Unions, one of the successors to the prestigious Soviet writers' union.

Pulatov's biggest worry is that the Western romance-novel "disease" has infected Russia's tradition.

weakness of the House of Windsor.

"They're peering through the windows and tapping telephone calls. If you're not careful we're going to lose our royal family. All this (scrutiny) is exhausting and very, very damaging for the whole of England."

The Italians cry because they don't have a royal family. The French would love one. And what are we doing — our very best to get rid of them," said the patriotic Dame.

"Of course there's still romance in the royal family."

The prying press, not

blaming some of Diana's problems on her own troubled upbringing.

"They're never quite the same, they don't have the security. She was a very sweet little girl when she married, very innocent," she said. "Let's just hope they sort it all out."

In fact the whole country should sort it all out if people want the sort of happy endings her heroines routinely enjoy.

"England says it's not interested in love anymore," said Ms. Cartland. "But it will come back. People fight and die for real love and they'll realize this sex business is the wrong track."

Queen of romance decries society of smut

By Lyndsay Griffiths
Reuter

LONDON — Dame Barbara Cartland, the world's most successful romantic novelist, remembers a time when the only thing worse than having sex was talking about it.

"It was rather like going to the lavatory. You never spoke about it. It's all so extraordinary today. People have become very vulgar," Cartland told Reuters.

The dame's preferred world is that of her youth, a sanitised land of elegant dances, ballgowns, lines of suitors in white tie and tails and plenty of good clean fun.

Her books, are sex-free zones. All 621 of them. "For 20 years, I've done a book a fortnight (every two weeks). Without fail, 6,000 words a day," said the 93-year-old doyenne of

pulp romance. "Nobody else has done that."

She dictates to an army of secretaries at her suburban mansion and the formula sells in the hundreds of millions, surpassing even the sales of crime writer Agatha Christie.

"I'm doing very well in Australia and love is selling in France too. Next I'm off to America. When books go to China they take every one and remove the sex. The only books they don't interfere with are mine. Japan's going that way too," she said.

Though 38 per cent of women in Turkey read Cartland, "England says

it's not interested in love," she sighed.

Indeed, British profile writers tend to pour scorn on the generously shaped Dame Barbara, resplendent in pink chiffon with her fluttering false eyelashes. But readers like her tales of true love run smooth.

Her heroines are virgins. Their suitors are rich.

And nobody jumps between the sheets until a ring is slipped onto the damsel's finger.

It is not a story from today's world.

"I never write about the present. I don't touch it because I don't want to

write about sex," she said. "God gives me the most wonderful plots. They're so good and so easy."

They don't, unfortunately, match real life.

In Cartland's day, young men courted young women from afar, with jewels, not condoms, in their pockets.

"I had 56 proposals of marriage and people always gave me something. Nowadays girls don't get the chance. They're lucky to get a bunch of flowers," said Ms. Cartland, who has just sold her glittering jewel collection at auction.

"Of course there's still romance in the royal family."

The 57 lots, from diamonds to paste, were a magnet for fans and col-

Techno freaks

By Jean-Claude Elias

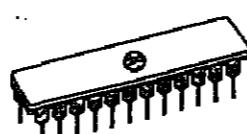
"One day everybody will be using a computer." How many times have we heard or read this brusque statement? The way personal computer (PC) aficionados put it, we should expect computers to come just after bread and water in the list of our essential needs in a decade or two.

This is obviously a gross exaggeration. Although the dramatic technical progress that PCs and software have recently made and the significant reduction in manufacturing cost have put them virtually in every office, school and most homes, there are still millions of people who do not have even the faintest idea of how to operate a PC. Some simply because they cannot afford to learn the technique, some because they do not have access to the systems and others simply because they hate the technology.

Moreover, people are discovering that while the machines can help them work better, having someone else do the job and confront the equipment makes their life easier. In other words, more and more people trust the machines and admit they need them, but prefer to let someone else operate the equipment for them. As shocking as it may sound to some, this would mean that maybe with time, less people will be using PCs themselves.

Another factor that contributes to frightening users is the lack of friendliness in operating PCs. Though computer operating systems (OS) have come a long way since the early eighties and are infinitely easier and more pleasant to use now, they are still far from being as friendly as common mortals wish them to be. I do not intend to upset Mr. Bill Gates (I wouldn't dare) but even the new Windows system can't be as friendly as in the average PC user's

chip talk



dreams.

However, let's be very optimistic and assume that computers have become as powerful, inexpensive and friendly as they could be, there will always be individuals that would rather keep a certain distance between them and the machines. Some of us simply are not fond of technology and can live a perfectly happy life without it. I have a friend who hates wrist watches that do anything more than just give the time of day. Even the day and date functions are unbearable to him. The mere sight of those trendy watches that have a built-in alarm, a calculator, three different time displays, an altitude indicator and heart pulse monitor makes him sick.

If many still can't (or do not want to) programme a VCR, how can we claim that every single person on Earth will use a PC some day? It is very unlikely. We may all depend on computer technology in the future — we probably depend on it now — but we do not all have to necessarily become computer operators, let alone computer experts.

JTV CHANNEL TWO
WEEKLY PREVIEWThursday,
Sept. 7, 1995

1:00 Iris - The Happy Professor
1:15 Fireman Sam
1:50 My Secret Identity
2:15 N.B.A.
3:30 Take Your Pick
4:00 Dead Men's Tales
4:30 I witness Video
5:00 Children's Programme
Rahan — "Pour Sauver Alona
Varieties And Game Show
Le Monde Est A Vous
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Court Metrage
Stella Plage
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 National Geographic
8:30 The Album Show
9:15 Murder She Wrote
10:00 News In English
10:25 Movie — In The Name Of Duty
Starring: James Brolin
12:00 Shogun
12:40 Perfect Strangers

Friday,
Sept. 8, 1995

1:00 Read A Lee Deed A Lee
1:15 Beethoven
1:30 Why Didn't I Think Of That
2:00 Key To Freedom: Women & Literacy
2:30 Movie — The Entertainers
Starring: Bob Newhart & Linda Gray
4:00 Crystal Maze
5:00 Children's Programme
Rahan — "Les Enfants Du Fleuve"
5:30 Telefilm — Pas Si Grand Que Ca
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine
E-M6
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 African Skies
8:00 Heartbeat
8:30 Documentary — Nomads Of The Wind
9:10 Danger Field
10:00 News In English
10:25 Movie — Calamity Jane
Starring: Jane Alexander & Fredrick Forster
12:00 Out On A Limb
12:30 The Powers That Be

Saturday,
Sept. 9, 1995

2:00 Back To The Future
2:30 Harry And The Hendersons
3:00 Road To Avonlea
3:45 Only In Hollywood
4:00 U.S. Tennis Open
5:00 Children's Programme
Rahan — "Les Entrailles Du Gorak"
Documentary
Les Bicentenaire Du Louvre
Drama Series
Operation Open I Et 2
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine
News Headlines
7:30 First Flights
8:00 Major Dad
The Bold And The Beautiful
9:10 Women Of The World
9:35 Boogies Diner
10:00 News In English
10:25 Movie — A Place For Annie
Starring: Sissy Spacek & Marry-Louise Parker
11:50 Noble House

Sunday,
Sept. 10, 1995

2:00 The Flintstones
2:30 Joshua Jones
2:45 The Mighty Jungle
3:00 Pugwall's Summer
3:30 Time Riders
4:00 Families
Children's Programme
Rahan

Oh what a tangled web we weave

By Samer Ghaleb Bageer

Self proclaimed experts have been arguing that nearly half of the buildings in Amman have neither taste nor style. Normally, one cannot but agree with this assessment. But which half of buildings are we talking about?

It remains possible to argue that the residential homes of western Amman and other privileged areas in the Kingdom with their rather exaggerated and extravagant features are neither aesthetically appealing nor architecturally enriching. It would also be possible to go on further to claim that these residences are a part of what is commonly referred to as Mickey Mouse architecture — architecture put together by cartoonists.

By contrast, it can also be claimed that the residential homes in the rather less fortunate parts of Amman and other Jordanian villages and cities are somewhat interesting and exciting. One can also add that it was the down to earth designs that made even a fishing village in Bombay very interesting in terms of the aesthetics they had to offer.

It does very little justice to our urban fabric if we were to compare it with that of cities such as Chicago, or any other well developed city because cities are normally a product of certain historical events, trade, migrations, etc... And homes, or residential types, are products of a certain period in the history of a city.

What remains is that humans have, in theory at least and by virtue of their own nature, the ability to describe, assess, and maybe criticise their environment. Yes, one could say that a window is square and a door is rectangular. But one also could say that an upside down arch is nonsensical or whether a terrace was too small or a window too small. One does not need an education in architecture to be able to tell whether a table is too low or whether a door is too high.

Nowadays, one could certainly say more, simply because there is more folly to talk about. And this folly is not simply in architecture. One could say, for example, that pitched roofs are being taken to extremes, that huge glass windows are totally uncalled for in our hot climate, that overall form is given shape either for reasons driven by financial gains or by clumsy attempts at putting square blocks together. Gargoyles are mere additives reminiscent of suitcases and chimneys have developed rather silly looking things at their ends.

We are certainly not building our houses so that we impress our foreign friends when they come to visit. Or are we? And if so, who are we kidding? When some Swedish friends of mine came over last summer, they certainly did not want to visit Abdoun, but the refugee camps around Amman. And it made no sense to try to convince them that such environments did not exist. Eventually, they were taken to both.

Honest professionals owe it to themselves and to the people of eastern, southern and northern Amman, nine-tenths of Zarqa, Salt, Ajloun, Jerash, Mafrqa and the rest of the Jordanian landscape to defend such habitats against claims that these areas lack style and character.

Each and every locality and neighbourhood, anywhere in the world, has a distinct style and its own character. And simply because the arrogance within us stirs us too often to make ill informed judgements, we should never attempt to play God. People who state that low income people only think that a house is just a shelter are gravely mistaken.

Low-income settlements around the world are some of the most colourful and free form urban products ever produced by man. It is there after all that humans do what they do with their homes because they need to and not to turn their houses into markers of social status. Others, on the other hand, only use Italian marble because it has become a marker of social status. Local materials remain always at the heart of everything. The Yemenites certainly never did import any Italian marble or any structural glazing or paneling system.

Those who claim that poor people cannot afford to decorate and beautify their houses must have their own interpretations of what beauty is. And certainly such individuals must have never been in the low-income settlements of either India, Thailand, Ghana, Turkey or Brazil.

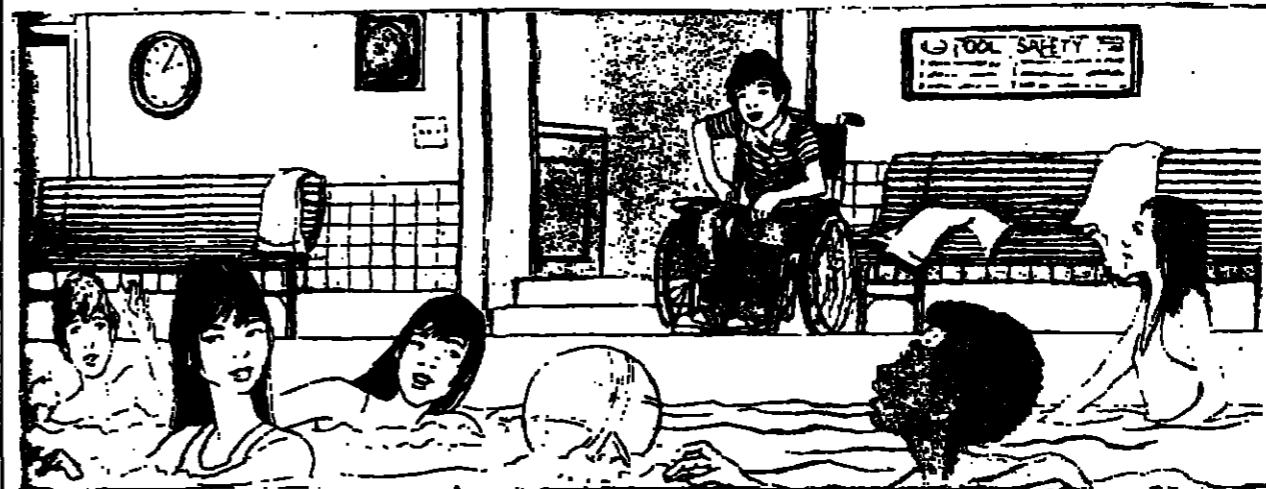
Imposed value systems are always damaging. Making demands that the houses of those among us who are less fortunate should display more rhythm, taste and style is totally uncalled for. For certainly the houses of the more well off areas can do with a great deal of taste, rhythm and an appreciation of human scale and local materials.

The aesthetics of any dwelling remain related to the values of the culture in which it is placed and consequently tell so much about a society.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaib

TEST YOUR POWER OF OBSERVATION



Carefully look at the picture for 3 minutes, put the newspaper aside and then state whether these statements are TRUE or FALSE.

SCORE: Excellent 9-10; Good 7-8; Good 6-8; Below 5: Lacking concentration.

1. The boy sitting in the trolley is holding a stick.
2. There are six people in the picture.
3. Time shown is "ten minutes past one."

★ ★ ★ ★

TIME FOR FUN

★ "A smart lady is standing in your husband's way."

WIFE: "Poor lady! My husband is a train driver!"

★ ★ ★ ★

★ HUSBAND: "If I were Adam, I wouldn't quit Paradise."

WIFE: "Why?"

HUSBAND: "Because I dislike apples."

★ ★ ★ ★

★ FRIEND: "Oh, has the quarrel with your wife been settled?"

SABER: "I've compelled her to kneel."

FRIEND: "What did you do?"

SABER: "She knelt down and said:

"Come out from under the bed, you coward!"

— Don't ask me the impossible. *La tass'aini al-mustahid.*
 — Don't say a word! *La tantiq bekalima.*
 — Don't be hard on me. *La tag alayya.*
 — Take no notice of him. *La to'tha lilitmanan.*
 — Don't worry about your mother's health. *La tashghil baik besih'hati ommek.*
 — I don't need advice, thank you. *La hajta lee elan'nos'h, Ashkorok.*
 — Don't reveal others' secrets. *La tak'shif asrar al-akhareen.*
 — It's a shame, isn't it? *Eunahu syb, alaysa kathafik?*

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

★ ★ ★ ★

TIME FOR FUN

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★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES
PIG PUZZLE WORD FIND

By going up, down, backward, forward, or diagonal, can you find the words that have to do with pigs and pig stories?

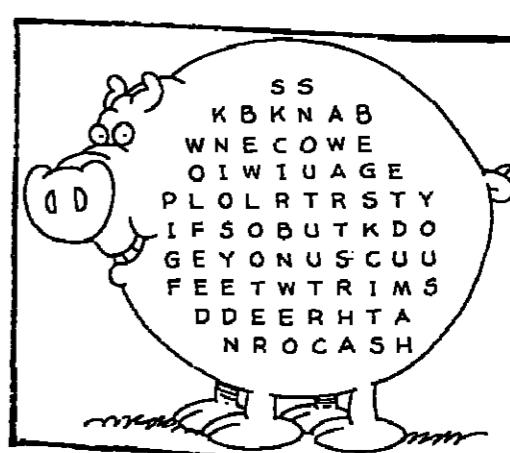
Put a loop around each one.

PIG	CORN	WOLF	THREE	BANK
SOW	FEED	BRICKS	GRUNT	MUD
WEB	WILBUR	HAM	FEET	STRAW
STY	STICKS	OINK	SNOUT	



BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. In nuclear strategy, what is "coupling?"
2. What is the "ordinateur" better known as?
3. Which city is called the Athens of the North?
4. What are dreadlocks?
5. The Long March occurred in China in the 1930s. What in China is the Second Long March?
6. Where are the Drygalsky Mountains?



Dennis Quaid battles to make peace with himself

By Ric Leyva

The Associated Press

houses so that we come to visit. Or when some Swedes, they certainly did three camps around eventually, they were

elves and to the people and the rest of the inhabitants against claim or ownership, anywhere in own character. And it's still us too often we could never attempt to become people only gravely mistaken.

Too often, he rubs his eyes, laughs nervously or coughs, hugs at his hair in frustration or manhandles his shirt collar. He doesn't seem to notice. Every now and then, he suddenly stops speaking and leans forward, elbows on knees, squeezing his cheeks between both hands and moaning slightly like he's in pain.

Revealing himself to a total stranger who will put his every thought into print isn't Quaid's idea of a good time. But he is a movie star. It comes with the job. And

he's always been a pro, so naturally he delivers.

"Just don't expect anything less than the truth."

"I don't read anything that's written about me," he says. "I won't read this either."

Oooh, that felt good. He sits still for a few self-satisfied seconds, maintaining eye contact now and grinning his grin, that winning Quaid half-smirk that melts tender hearts in movie houses.

He listens attentively and answers intelligently, but eyeing the tape recorder with distrust, he fidgets shamelessly, squirming in his seat trying to get comfortable.

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Too often, he rubs his eyes, laughs nervously or coughs, hugs at his hair in frustration or manhandles his shirt collar. He doesn't seem to notice. Every now and then, he suddenly stops speaking and leans forward, elbows on knees, squeezing his cheeks between both hands and moaning slightly like he's in pain.

Revealing himself to a total stranger who will put his every thought into print isn't Quaid's idea of a good time. But he is a movie star. It comes with the job. And

he's always been a pro, so naturally he delivers.

"Just don't expect anything less than the truth."

"I don't read anything that's written about me," he says. "I won't read this either."

Oooh, that felt good. He sits still for a few self-satisfied seconds, maintaining eye contact now and grinning his grin, that winning Quaid half-smirk that melts tender hearts in movie houses.

He listens attentively and answers intelligently, but eyeing the tape recorder with distrust, he fidgets shamelessly, squirming in his seat trying to get comfortable.

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Dennis Quaid

A wild reception for Jon Secada in Grease revival

By Michael Kuchwara

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — "One hot star" trumpets the advertising copy for the Broadway revival of Grease. Judging from the audience reaction to Jon Secada's official opening night at the Eugene O'Neal Theatre, it could be right.

Screams and Squeals greeted the pop star from his first entrance and were repeated along with whistles and a loud chorus of "Yeaas," every time he opened his mouth to sing.

At the end of the show, the audience — which included long-time Secada supporter Gloria Estefan and her producer husband Emilio — scrambled to its feet for a cheering standing ovation. As photographers stormed the aisles to take pictures of the grinning Secada, groupies threw white carnations and streamers at the stage.

Since it opened 15 months ago, the revival of Grease has been a triumph of musical theatre marketing by producers Barry and Fran Weissler. The husband-and-wife producing team have tailored their stars to the show — and to an audience that probably has never seen a Broadway musical before.

Rosie O'Donnell, Brooke Shields, Joey Fisher, Not exactly a theatre hall of Fame Trio, but three distinct performers who put their mark on Rizzo, the show's bad girl with a heart of gold. They dominated the musical and sang plenty of tickets during their engagements.

Now Secada reclaims the show for Danny Zuko, the 1950s duck-tailed high-school greaser who wins the heart of sweet and prim Sandy Dumbrowski. It's not exactly typecasting. While Danny is brash, Secada off-stage is almost bashful, unassuming and

unfailingly polite. "He's sooooo nice," coos Fran Weissler. "And he works so hard. He comes in early. He leaves late. I can't tell you what is going to happen months from now. All I can tell you is that he is a joy — and you know, that doesn't happen too often in this business."

Secada seems embarrassed by the fuss. A week or so before his opening, the performer sits in a Manhattan Hotel suite, dutifully doing a series of interviews for the show.

Secada is dressed in black jeans, a tight Rydell High T-shirt and black leather jacket sporting the name of the musical. His hair is in a fashionable short cut, nothing like the carefully slicked wig he wears in the show.

"I was anxious — it was a learning experience from day one," Secada says. The singer played several weeks out-of-town, appearing with the road company of

the show in preparation for joining the Broadway cast. "I treated each performance as a lesson," he says. "Of course, you always screw up. But it's good for me. I'm very critical of myself. And what a way to start. This is Broadway."

Secada comes to Broadway with virtually no theatre experience, but plenty of stage savvy. He knows how to work an audience. On opening night, he swaggered, sang falsetto and rolled his eyes, making sure theatregoers got every one of the musical's mildly raunchy, but good-natured jokes. The audience loved every minute of it.

"Jon has an incredible amount of sex appeal — it's just there," says Jeff Calhoun, the director of Grease. "I've never worked with anyone who has the musical instincts he has. They are spectacular."

"Take his singing of 'Alone At the Drive-In Movie.' His performance of

it is as good as any musical performance I have seen in the theatre. And when would you say that when you are talking about Grease?" Calhoun says with a laugh.

Yet Secada realises and appreciates that concerts and theatre are worlds apart.

"Different timing, different atmosphere," he explains. "That's what I've been trying to learn every single night. Learn the essence of timing, the acting and the dancing. And how to do it eight times a week."

So why take on Broadway? Coming off a world tour, the Cuban-born Secada says he was ready for a new challenge and new audiences beyond his traditional Latin and pop fans. It's an extension of an effort started several years ago by his friend, model Ingrid Casares, who put him in Armani suits and

other designer duds to mainstream his appeal.

Secada was noticed first on stage in a bid way five years ago, when Gloria Estefan offered him job touring with her show. He had worked for her as a songwriter and backup singer. His first album sold 10 million copies worldwide, producing the hit singles Just Another Day and Angel; a second, Heart, Soul And A Voice, more tinged with rhythm and blues, was released last year.

Secada immigrated with his family to South Florida in 1971, at the age of nine. His parents ran a restaurant in Hialeah, Florida, where he grew up. Secada was teaching music at Miami-Dade Community College when he was hired by Estefan's husband, Emilio. He's been in the music business ever since.

"You don't get bored if you don't stop working," Secada says.

"You've got to keep working at your craft. That's what I do when I sing my songs on stage."

"The first thing you have to remember is to love what you do. That is something Gloria Estefan told me when I first got into the business. Every song you write and every song you sing — you really must like them — because they are going to be with you for the rest of your life."

While Secada is in Grease — he is scheduled to stay with the show through December — his new Spanish-language recording, Amor, will be released.

"You have to get used to working with people," he says. "You have to make yourself fit in, like a glove."

"It is a very nostalgic sounding record with a full orchestra," he says. "Very passionate, romantic and beautiful songs. It's very Nat King Cole-ish and a real change of pace for me."

Secada wrote about half the songs on the new

recording, the others were by "other Latin writers who are very well respected in the industry."

With his nights booked, Secada says he will work during the day on a new English-language recording, although his main responsibility will be to the musical.

For all his considerable star power, Secada doesn't overwhelm this production of Grease. He knows he is part of a team, an ensemble of actors.

"You have to get used to working with people," he says. "You have to make yourself fit in, like a glove."

Only at the end of the show, after the curtain calls and the cheering, does Secada step forward to give the audience a little extra something. He croons an uptempo version of the old Elvis Presley anthem Love Me Tender, and they go wild.

Film-maker mapped path to top like an army general

By Tim Farrand
Reuter

LONDON — The rise to fame of controversial young American film-maker Quentin Tarantino is a tale of a movie buff who has swapped his seat in the dark for the lights of the big screen with alarming speed.

Only one director has generated so much fuss on such a limited output and that was Orson Welles.

Still in his early 30s, Tarantino has only directed Reservoir Dogs and Pulp Fiction, for which he won an Oscar this year for best screen-

play.

He has also written

True Romance and Natural Born Killers, which portray America's underworld of gangsters and crooks with the same unnerving mix of violence and comedy.

But in a biography entitled Quentin Tarantino, Shooting From The Hip, author Wensley Clarkson says no one should be surprised by the meteoric climb. He sees Tarantino as a man on a mission who put enormous time and effort into movies.

"Hollywood tended to treat him as though he was some kid who had come from nowhere and had fallen on his feet. In fact, Quentin had planned it all with the meticulous eye of

an army general mapping out his campaign," Clarkson writes.

Although the violence of his movies largely accounts for Tarantino's status as a youth icon, Clarkson argues that the violence is more subtle than many other movie-makers'.

"If you ask me how I feel about violence in real life, well, I have a lot of feelings about it," Tarantino himself said at a recent news conference. "It's one of the worst aspects of America. In movies, violence is cool. I like it."

Tarantino is now mobbed by teenage girls but he has the sort of ordinary

face that before 1992 — when Dogs put him on every magazine cover — would have gone unnoticed in a crowd.

He was literally born into the movies.

His mother, who cooperated with Clarkson on the book, named him after a rugged film cowboy called Quint Asper, played by Burt Reynolds, who featured in a western called Guns-

moke and would stage vicious hand-to-hand combat scenes all over the house.

His mother took him to see daring movies from an early age. He saw Carnal Knowledge when he was about seven and Deliverance, whose homosexual rape scene he recreated in Pulp Fiction.

By the age of eight he had developed a liking for grisly horror flicks. He also became engrossed in television shows, sitting close to the small screen for hours on end.

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New breast implants launched in Britain

By Lindsay Griffiths

Rueter

LONDON — A revolutionary breast implant filled with vegetable oil was launched in Britain Monday, billed as a safe and natural alternative to the leaky silicone sacs that stirred health fears around the world.

The new implant is due for release in Italy and Germany later this year and should hit

the multimillion-dollar U.S. market by 2000, according to its Swiss manufacturer.

"There are three reasons why this implant is a first — it's natural, safe and secure.

If it ever leaks into the body

it is harmless," Terry Knapp,

president of Lipomatrix Inc.,

told Reuters. "Our goal is to

offer women an opportunity

to achieve a satisfactory

image in the safest possible

way."

Mr. Knapp said at the

launch the sacs had undergone painstaking research to meet European Union standards and were the first new implant to win U.S. permission to undergo trials.

The past four years have been a journey of challenge and discovery, of confrontation and concern, of discouraging setback and exhilarating progress," Mr. Knapp said. "Like any product, Trilucent will evolve as human knowledge accumulates but we are confident that we have provided a better way forward."

A line of independent experts — doctors, plastic surgeons, psychologists and cancer charities — gave their backing to the new implant, which was invented by two women radiologists in St. Louis and launched at London's Royal Society of Medicine.

But the history of implants, used primarily to

enlarge breasts for cosmetic reasons, has been dogged by controversy and it could be years before the new version wins U.S. approval.

While silicone-gel and saline implants started in the 1960s, it was not until 1990

that safety fears really hit.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has since ordered a stop to the manufacture of most silicone implants and drug firms face

thousands of lawsuits from

women who claim the sacs made them ill. Plaintiffs alleged leaky silicone-gel implants caused a range of health problems, a claim denied by manufacturers.

But Mr. Knapp — whose company is 90 per cent owned by U.S.-based Collagen Corp. — said the health scare led to a 40 per cent

slump in a global market that had huge potential.

He said 225,000 breast implants were sold in the

United States in 1990, constituting 60 per cent of the world market.

"The market is now worth \$79 million in the U.S. and \$150 million worldwide. We anticipate this is going to increase substantially," said Mr. Knapp, citing huge potential in Asia.

The manufacturers claim three main breakthroughs.

Should the implant rupture,

the oil is digestible and

can be stored on a central database.

harm. Its shell is strong and durable.

The new implant allows for safer cancer screening than silicone or saline implants, which block more than 22 per cent of breast tissue in a mammography, said the company.

The new implant also carries a novel tracking device,

meaning a patient's history

can be stored on a central database.

Genetic engineering safe, British government says

LONDON (R) — Genetic engineering, used to create vaccines, tastier tomatoes and pest-resistant crops, is safe, the British government said last week.

The Health and Safety Commission issued a report saying gene technology was

"down to earth" and had made "astonishingly rapid yet safe progress".

"When the techniques of genetic engineering were first developed some 20 years ago the scientists themselves were worried about the risks and volunteer-

ingly banned certain research," said Frank Davies, chairman of the commission.

However, the understandable fears about the risks of "playing God" have proved largely groundless and we have been able to refine the controls without jeopardis-

ing safety," Mr. Davies added in a statement.

Some environmental groups and other critics of genetic engineering say it could be dangerous if altered plants, insects or animals escaped into the environment.

Many groups have also demanded that genetically altered food be clearly marked.

"We now know it to be unlikely that gene technology would accidentally produce catastrophic effects on humans or the environment

ing improved vaccines.

"A vaccine against hepatitis B virus is now safely produced by inserting a small part of the virus into a harmless organism (such as a yeast) to produce viral proteins which are then purified and made into a vaccine," it

Riding therapy builds muscle and independence in disabled

By Aparna Mukherjee

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — For one hour each week, the dull, empty gaze that distances 16-year-old Chad Solomon from the world takes on fire and life.

The transformation starts as the autistic teenager mounts a fat, shaggy Belgian horse named Pete. It continues as Chad coaxes the horse into a trot and stands in the saddle like a circus performer, holding his balance with only a leather strap.

"Chad didn't really seem to speak or react before he started riding, at least when I met him," said Al Basile, a volunteer at Pegasus Riding Academy, a nonprofit therapeutic centre. "He doesn't walk normally, but when he's up

there on the horse, you wouldn't know it."

Chad is among hundreds of disabled people who have ridden at Pegasus since its founding in 1982 and among many thousands seeking help every year through riding therapy, also known as hippotherapy.

Success stories are legion, dating back to Liz Hartel of Denmark, who won a silver medal at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki after overcoming polio.

Carol Tatum founded Pegasus with her husband, Richard, after closing a mainstream riding school.

"I was near burnout and disenchanted with riders who only cared about their accomplishments," she said.

With Pegasus, she feels a deep satisfaction.

"I really appreciate the connection the riders I teach now have with the horses. It's very spiritual," Tatum said. "They need the horses, physically and mentally, as much as the horses need them."

Tatum forces the riders to push themselves, yelling at youngsters to gain control of wandering horses and cheering when they do.

A \$27-per-session fee covers the cost of housing, feeding and training Pegasus' 12 horses and maintaining the stables, indoor arena and offices. The buildings are on property owned by the City's Park Commission, which leases the land to Pegasus for \$1 a year.

The animals, ranging from racehorses past their prime to Amish farm horses, are donated and put through a

strict screening process. Fund-raisers, private donations and government grants pay other expenses.

Therapeutic riding improves muscle tone, balance, posture, coordination, motor development and emotional and psychological well-being, according to the Denver-based North American Riding for the Handicapped Association, which has more than 525 affiliates in the United States and Canada.

More than 25,000 riders take part in therapy programmes with the help of 1,250 instructors, 19,500 volunteers, 840 licensed therapists and 3,700 horses, the organisation says.

But those numbers aren't the ones that count for an industry that could open the

treatment to many more handicapped people.

"It's scientifically untested and unscientifically proven," said Donna Gerhauser, a spokeswoman for Prudential Insurance Co. of America.

Gerhauser said most insurance companies will not cover the therapy because "it's not medically necessary."

Terry Long of Bryn Mawr's Rehabilitation Hospital believes a lack of education prevents insurance companies, doctors, therapists and some patients from taking riding therapy seriously.

"Insurance companies, and doctors want to see the numbers to back up all the success stories," Long said. "There may be changes in the patients, but they won't

connect it to the fact that they've been riding for the last two weeks."

For many Pegasus riders, the benefit may be in mounting the horse or simply getting a chance to pet and feed Pete — the gentle favourite among the youngest and newest riders.

"When your life is set that controlled, it's incredible to do anything on your own," said Esther Chernak, a staff nurse at Pegasus. "You're doing something many non-handicapped people can't."

"The physical part is just as important because the horse imitates the way a person walks," she said. "It forces them to use muscles that are fat and not toned, like people in wheelchairs tend to get."

Chernak speaks from experience. The former hospital nurse was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in the fall of 1985, and started doing physical therapy to stretch her joints on her doctor's recommendation.

Pegasus, she said, helped her regain her physical abilities.

A volunteer for almost four years, Basile said he doesn't know much about the disabilities that bring the patients to Pegasus.

"Once you're on the horse, it doesn't really matter," he said.

As Basile sees it, stroke victim Bill Pokorny is "just like John Wayne up in the saddle — sitting high and tall."

Pokorny, 64, a former bartender, is Pegasus' oldest

rider. His wife, Nancy, a psychiatric nurse, introduced him to the centre as a birthday present.

Seven years after Nancy's gift, the couple has seen a boost in Basile's self-confidence and physical capability. Even without the use of his right hand — paralyzed after the stroke — he is not only riding regularly, but square-dancing, swimming and even rock-climbing.

"From a nursing and personal perspective, I would recommend it as a great thing for anybody with a disability, physical or mental," Mrs. Pokorny said. "We've told lots of people about Pegasus."

Researchers isolate new mutation that causes Alzheimer's

By Paul Recer

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A mutation found only

among some German-Russian immigrants is identified as a third gene that causes inherited Alzheimer's disease. Sci-

entists say the discovery may help speed development of drugs to combat the brain-destroying disorder.

Researchers isolated the gene by probing chromosomes of a group known as Volga Germans, who have a very high inci-

dence rate of Alzheimer's before age 65. The mutated gene, found on chromosome 1, was linked directly to causing the fatal disease.

Two reports on the discovery are being published in *Science*, the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Rudolph Tanzi of Massachusetts General Hospital, a principal collaborator in the research, said the new Alzheimer's gene makes a protein that is closely related to a protein made by an Alzheimer's gene his team found earlier on chromosome 14.

The similarity, Mr. Tanzi said, puts researchers on a fast track for understanding what causes formation in the brain of amyloid-beta, a glue-like substance toxic to brain

cells and a primary feature of Alzheimer's.

He said once the function

of the two similar proteins is found, researchers can develop a drug to block the disease.

"This is an incredibly important discovery," said Marcelle Morrison-Bogorad, a professor of Neurology at the University of Texas' Southwestern Medical School.

"This means that genetics

has pretty much solved the

mystery of early-onset AD

(Alzheimer's disease).

and it clears a path for

scientific research that wasn't there before."

With three AD genes

identified, she said, re-

searchers can now focus on specific molecular pro-

cesses.

"The body makes about

100,000 proteins," said

Morrison-Bogorad. "Now

icans have the disease, the country's fourth leading cause of death with 100,000 victims annually.

More than 90 per cent of

patients develop the dis-

ease after 65, and some

studies suggest that about

half of everybody over age

85 is afflicted.

But it was early-onset

AD that led to discovery of a genetic cause.

And about 70 per cent

of that type are in families

with the chromosome 14

defect, Mr. Tanzi said.

The newly isolated chromo-

some 1 defect accounts for

about 25 per cent of such

cases, the chromosome 21

flaw about five per cent.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

BOOBY TRAP

By Joel Davajan

ACROSS

1. Transact on **the** **net** **bank** **over** **the** **air** **line** **in** **the** **clouds** **on** **the** **radio** **in** **the** **air** **on** **the** **radio** **in** **the** **clouds** **on** **the** **air** **line** **in** **the** **clouds** **on** **the** **radio** **in** **the** **air** **line** **in** **the** **clouds** **on** **the** **radio** **in** **the** **air** **line** **in** **the** **clouds** **on** **the** **radio** **in** **the** **air** **line** **in**

Greenpeace uses airwaves to make waves in Mururoa

By Mike Corder
Associated Press

Amsterdam, Netherlands - The environmental superpower Greenpeace is using video clips and sound bites to wage war against French plans to test a nuclear bomb in the South Pacific.

Media exposure has become the key weapon in the arsenal of the Amsterdam-based group that in recent months has taken on France, China and Royal Dutch Shell.

In televised coverage last week, a French naval helicopter was filmed as it blocked a Greenpeace chopper's attempts to get into the 20-kilometre exclusion zone. France has thrown around its Mururoa Atoll test site. Like every navy, Greenpeace has a flagship, the M.V. Greenpeace, which arrived off the Atoll this week to spar for the cameras with a pair of French navy frigates. French commandos on Friday stormed the ship, as well as its sister ship Rainbow Warrior II, and set off with them to a French military base hundreds of miles away.

Greenpeace's publicity seeking tactics secured its victory over Royal Dutch Shell, the oil multinational forced to abandon plans to dump its Brent Spar oil platform at sea. But critics argue that Greenpeace forced Shell out of one bad decision and into another by insisting on having the platform dismantled on land where workers would be endangered by the poison left on board.

Television producers too have attacked Greenpeace's manipulation of the media during the Brent Spar campaign. In an interview at Greenpeace's internation-

sion forum, David Lloyd, senior commissioning editor for news at Britain's Channel 4, said that Greenpeace video releases provided to the media had spun the story so far in the environmentalists' favour.

"The pictures provided to US showed plucky helicopters riding into a fusillade of water cannons. Try and write the analytical science into

Greenpeace has photographers and cameramen aboard all its ships, and the modern satellite technology to beam the images back to the group's media centre in London, where they are fed to news organisations.

that."

Richard Sambrook, the news editor for news and current affairs of BBC television, agreed that Greenpeace's expensive media operation had won the day.

"This particular David is not armed with a sling shot so much as an AK-47," he said. The M.V. Greenpeace and Rainbow Warrior II are loaded to the gunwales with sophisticated communications equipment, ensuring that the world sees Greenpeace's publicity seeking tactics secured its victory over Royal Dutch Shell, the oil multinational forced to abandon plans to dump its Brent Spar oil platform at sea.

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Television producers too have attacked Greenpeace's manipulation of the media during the Brent Spar campaign. In an interview at Greenpeace's internation-

al headquarters on Amsterdam's historic Kaiser's Canal, the organisation's international executive director, Thilo Bode, said: "Mururoa is fantastic because that is a real conflict. You see the sailing boats and the French war ships."

The group gave the world a taste of its skills earlier this month when Greenpeace anti-nuclear pro-



A DECADES LONG CONFLICT: Rwandan refugees in Zaire

Seeds of ethnic hatred go back years in Rwanda

By Elif Kaban
Reuters

Kigali - Rwanda, homeland of hundreds of thousands of refugees who are resisting a United Nations repatriation plan, straddles what must be Africa's most gory ethnic faultline.

The seeds of hatred between the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi tribes took root during colonial rule.

Independence from Belgium in 1962 released suppressed tribal rivalries which erupted into waves of violence that finally exploded into genocide last year.

The Hutu - darker-skinned, stocky farmers - lived in the region first. They were conquered about 400 years ago by the tall, cattle-keeping Tutsi who came from the north and set up feudal kingdoms in both Rwanda and neighbouring Burundi.

The Tutsi, numbering 15

per cent of the population, ruled the Hutus as serfs before German colonialists arrived in 1899.

German explorer Count von Goetzen described the Tutsi as impressive "with their gigantic stature, the sublimity of their speech, the tasteful and unobtrusive way of their dress, their noble traits and their quiet, penetrating, often even witty and irritating eyes."

Colonial rulers reinforced the existing social system after the kingdom was taken over by Germany and later turned over to Belgium as a protectorate after World War I.

Mr. Habyarimana increased tensions by creating a sense of Hutu solidarity and bringing regional rivalries into Rwanda's politics.

At the same time he rejected suggestions that the Tutsi refugees should return to their homeland, saying Rwanda, the most densely populated country in Africa with about seven million people, had no room for them.

More tribal skirmishes erupted in 1963 and again in 1972.

More than 250,000 Tutsis fled to neighbouring Burundi, where the Tutsi retained control, and 300,000 to Uganda.

In July 1973, Major General Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu and then defence minister, toppled Rwanda's long-serving Hutu president Gregoire Kayibanda in a coup.

Mr. Habyarimana was assassinated on April 6, 1994, when his plane was shot out of the sky over the capital Kigali, killing

all on board - including the president of Burundi, Cyprien Ntaryamira.

Who shot down the plane remains unclear but U.N. officials suspect Mr. Habyarimana's hardline presidential guard was behind it.

The Hutus blamed the RPF rebels for the assassination

— and the slaughter of Tutsi civilians began within an hour of the crash. Moderate members of the Hutu government were among the first to be killed.

In two months, up to a million ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed in a frenzy.

Up to two million Tutsi refugees fled their homeland to neighbouring Zaire, Burundi and Tanzania after RPF rebels defeated the former Rwandan government army.

The RPF consolidated its hold on power and in July 1994 installed a new government with moderate Hutu politicians.

A cabinet reshuffle at the end of August 1995 kept the ethnic and political composition of the government, whose credibility depends on its ability to lure the refugees home.

Indian killing shakes government image

By Paul Iredale
Reuters

NEW DELHI - The assassination of Punjab's chief minister has shaken the image of peace and stability that Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was preparing to use as a major plank of his election campaign, analysts said this week.

The Iraqi pilots have been absent from the field because of the air embargo, imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, he added.

He also said his company had signed a contract with the French company SITA to purchase a computer system for check-ins and baggage and departure control.

Iraqi personnel will "start training on this equipment next month, when it will be set up."

Contacts were also underway with the European consortium Airbus for the delivery of 10 A310 carriers if the U.N. air embargo is lifted, Mr. Saleh added.

He said Iraq had sent several airplanes abroad to shield them from the January-February 1991 Gulf war, six to Jordan, four to Tunisia and five to Iran.

Those to Jordan and Tunisia were being serviced, but not those in Iran, he added, without giving a reason.

The audacious attack in broad daylight on the steps of the Punjab government secretariat has stunned a nation enjoying a spell of relative tranquility after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi and communal riots in the early part of the decade.

While few believe Mr. Singh's killing marks a full-scale return to the Punjab violence that claimed the lives of 20,000 people in the 1980s, it has dramatically refocused Indian attention on the problems of the Sikhs.

And as so often the case when India goes through a period of instability, it has led to a renewed bout of finger-pointing at its neighbour and arch-foe Pakistan.

It has also highlighted the possibility that the return to normality in Punjab is only superficial.

"(Mr. Rao) apparently believed that after the 1992 election, the Punjab problem was over. But the political roots of Punjab's disaffection remain deep," the Times of India said on Sunday.

Nuclear test sparks protests

(Continued from page 1) seized two Greenpeace ships and intercepted rubber rafts and divers who approached the atolls.

France has set off 205 nuclear blasts in the South Pacific and in Algeria since 1960, when then-President Charles de Gaulle brought the country into the atomic age.

France stopped atmospheric testing in 1974 and bored the test tunnels beneath Mururoa and nearby Fangatau, where it has conducted 138 underground blasts.

In the capital Canberra, several hundred people marched from the city centre to a demonstration outside the French embassy, while in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane protests were also held.

The British government, in a mild response, said it understood the "concern this has aroused in many countries. We note, however, the French commitment to a test ban treaty," adding "... the French decision to conduct tests is a matter for the French."

The opposition Labour Party's defence spokesman David Clarke, however, condemned the test as a "deplorable act," which made "a mockery of international attempts to negotiate a comprehensive test ban treaty."

Germans on both sides of the political divide joined the

said its tests undermined efforts to achieve an international test ban.

The Belgian government also said it "profoundly regrets" the resumption of nuclear testing, but foreign ministry spokesman said no further official measures were planned.

Romania and Turkey also called for an end to the tests.

NATO continues to hit Serbs

(Continued from page 1)

"This is the current policy. The commanders might decide otherwise if this situation continues and the weapons are still not moved, for example today," he added.

But despite the determination to press on with the current strategy, diplomats acknowledged it carried major risks: The provocation of intensified Bosnian Serb attacks on Sarajevo and other U.N. safe havens and lasting damage to the alliance's relationship with Russia.

"There are clearly risks but the feeling is that having got into this, we now have no option but to continue with it until (General Ratko) Mladić gives a clear signal that he is ready to withdraw his big guns from the exclusion zone," one NATO diplomat said after the ambassadors' regular Wednesday meeting in Brussels.

Wednesday's council was the first chance the alliance's ruling body had to assess the impact of the new wave of attacks unleashed by NATO warplanes on Tuesday.

There was no indication the Serbs would comply with the demand to end the siege of Sarajevo, and U.N. officials speculated the lack of response could be a sign of disarray in the Bosnian Serb leadership.

"We have plenty of targets, we have plenty of work left to do," Adm. Smith told a news conference in Naples, Italy.

Bosnian Serb police sources in Pale, just southeast of Sarajevo, confirmed the targets hit Wednesday were installations near military headquarters in Han Pijesak, 50 kilometres northeast of Sarajevo, and in Kališnik, 40 kilometres south of Sarajevo.

According to centrist Fawaz Zou'bi, more than 70 per cent of the university halls and classes are vacant after 1:00 p.m.

The House is expected to continue discussions on the issue on Sunday.

Iraq reaches out to neighbours

(Continued from page 12)

several years once the U.N. embargo imposed on Baghdad after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait had been lifted, he reportedly told Mr. Eleus when they met in Amman last month.

Mr. Pogorelichenko said "there is currently no military or technical cooperation (with Iraq) because of the U.N. sanctions."

But he did not rule out that Baghdad "could be interested" in purchasing Russian tanks, despite not having put in an order.

He said Gen. Kamel may have "given these figures to boost his own self-importance."

Four U.S. Navy warships are due on a port visit before carrying out operations in the Gulf, the U.S. embassy said.

U.S. New Orleans, Juneau, Comstock and Mount Vernon are part of an amphibious ready group which has completed a 10-day exercise with the Jordanian army, the Abu Dhabi based embassy said in a statement.

"There may be a certain disarray among the Bosnian Serbs and that is why orders coming from one end are not being followed through the other end," he said.

On Monday, a senior aide to Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic basically accepted the U.N. demands, but hours later Gen. Mladić rejected them.

One Bosnian Serb source close to the Pale leadership reported late Tuesday that a serious split had arisen between Gen. Mladić on one side and Mr. Karadzic and Serbian President Slobodan Milošević on the other. That could signal a shift in the Serb power structure, since Gen. Mladić recently had been allied with the powerful Serbian president against Mr. Karadzic.

Mr. Karadzic, speaking on Cable News Network, denied there was a split between himself and Gen. Mladić. "Everything goes very well, all of my personal orders are carried out," he said. "Even personal relationships with Gen. Mladić have improved."

accusation against Syria is unfair," he said, following talks with Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam here.

Mr. Talabani said he would meet Iraqi opposition members in Damascus as well as Syrian officials during his visit to "exchange ideas on the situation in Iraq and on the situation in the Middle East."

He added he had not decided whether to accept an invitation to meet Iraq's former industry minister General Hussein Kamel, who defected to Amman on Aug. 8.

The PKK and the KDP are the two main Kurdish groups controlling northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf war.

Several foreign civil aviation companies have sent instructors to Baghdad to train Iraqi pilots and technicians.

Iraqi Airways Director General Rabih Mohammad Saleh said in press comments.

The official did not name the companies or say how many there were but told the official daily Al Qadsia their instructors "have been training the Iraqis on the latest developments in the aviation field."

"The Iraqi pilots have been absent from the field because of the air embargo," imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, he added.

He also said his company had signed a contract with the French company SITA to purchase a computer system for check-ins and baggage and departure control.

Iraqi personnel will "start training on this equipment next month, when it will be set up."

Contacts were also underway with the European consortium Airbus for the delivery of 10 A310 carriers if the U.N. air embargo is lifted, Mr. Saleh added.

He said Iraq had sent several airplanes abroad to shield them from the January-February 1991 Gulf war, six to Jordan, four to Tunisia and five to Iran.

Those to Jordan and Tunisia were being serviced, but not those in Iran, he added, without giving a reason.

U.S. invites

(Continued from page 1)

and chief minister after elections in 1992 marked a turning point in Punjab's fortunes.

Although the vote ending six years of direct rule from New Delhi was widely boycotted, Mr. Singh, a Sikh from Mr. Rao's ruling Congress Party, was able to restore stability to the state.

Investment returned to the rich agricultural area, and its hard-working inhabitants appeared to be beginning to forget the bad days of the previous decade.

For Indian Prime Minister Rao, who faces general elections by next June with his party at a low ebb, shorn of support across the country following a series of state election reverses, Punjab was a major success story.

Mr. Rao had been hoping to repeat the prescription to Jammu and Kashmir, where a separatist insurgency that has claimed 20,000 lives since 1990 now appears to be on the wane.

A state election and the return of a civil administration in Jammu and Kashmir, on top of his success in Punjab and the gradually percolating benefits of his economic liberalisation, would provide a potent package for an electorate concerned about stability, Mr. Rao reasoned. Mr. Singh's assassination has given him huge new problems.

It has robbed him of a key aide who could have been expected to ensure that most of Punjab's 13 parliamentary seats remained in the hands of Congress at the elections.

It has also highlighted the possibility that the return to normality in Punjab is only superficial.

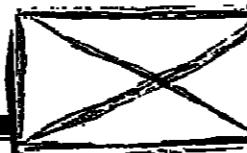
"(Mr. Rao) apparently believed that after the 1992 election, the Punjab problem was over. But the political roots of Punjab's disaffection remain deep," the Times of India said on Sunday.

Bomb kills 1

A car bomb attack killed at least one person and injured several others in the main town of Kurdish-held northern Iraq on Wednesday, Kurdish officials said.

The PUK said the bomb, made up of 15 kilograms of TNT, exploded outside one of its offices in the centre of Erbil.

<p



Judge orders bank to pay compensation to client for poor advice

LONDON (AFP) — British banks were reeling Wednesday after a landmark court action ruled that Lloyds Bank must pay compensation to a couple for giving them negligent financial advice.

Julia Verity, 55, and her partner, Richard Spindler, 36, were awarded £77,529 (about \$120,000) compensation for imprudent advice from their bank manager at Lloyds.

The case centres on the couple's purchase of a house in 1988 for which they borrowed £150,000 (\$232,000). They intended to renovate the Victorian house before selling it at a profit.

But their dream ended in nightmare and the collapse of the housing market threw the couple into bankruptcy. Instead of the £160,000 they expected from the resale one year later, the couple received only £35,000 and had crippling interest repayments.

They managed to convince the judge that their bank manager in Beaconsfield, a hundred kilometres west of London, had given them poor financial advice. Judge Taylor said: "The claimants' reliance on the advice caused loss of a kind that was reasonably foreseeable."

Consumer groups immediately called on other victims of alleged negligent advice to press claims and take them to court if need be.

The national coordinator of the Bank Action Group, Pat Griffiths, said: "This decision is good news for bank action groups. Banks can be held liable when people lose their homes or businesses."

Financials fear that the ruling may harm small businesses as banks review lending policy in the future and become more prudent.

Officials at Lloyds Bank, Britain's fourth biggest bank in credit terms, say they will probably be forced to review their relationship with potential clients.

But British banks insist that the court ruling does not challenge case law, which sets out the key role of banks in offering prudent financial advice while leaving final decisions to the clients themselves.

A spokesman for Lloyds said: "In this instance the judge decided that our branch manager went further and encouraged the plaintiffs to proceed with their project."

Despite their unexpected court victory, the couple are still close to financial ruin, as the bank demands crippling interest repayments.

Even if the couple have won compensation for the negligent financial advice, they have received nothing for the personal strains endured.

Julia Verity said: "There is a big age difference between us — we hadn't intended to stay together — Richard should be out there looking for a young wife. Because of this case we had to stay together and go on to the end."

Dr. Saket said that joining the WTO is a step bigger than the peace agreement, and "if we are not careful its risks are extremely large but, on the other side, it is extremely beneficial if we know how to deal with the issue."

"The question as such is how to go about the WTO, where does our interests lie and what are the best ways to achieve them," he said emphasising that our preparations are not up to the required level.

The former minister of agriculture, industry and trade indicated that prices will be rising in the first stage as a result of joining the WTO, but there will also be advantages from opening up to the huge international market. He outlined to his audience the basic WTO rules which include:

Freeing trade and lowering customs, abolishing subsidies and treatment of foreign investors on an equal footing with the local investors (Al Ra'i).

THE CABINET approved recommendations on allocating land on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea on the basis of leasing to the highest bidder. Minimum bidding was set at JD 1,500 per dunum annually for a period of 30 years renewable for a similar period on new contract and charge. The Cabinet also approved setting up four additional 4-star or 5-star hotels in the area according to the choice of the investors and the studies they have presented, with the possibility to look into setting up hotels and touristic villages from time to time (Al Ra'i).

ALADDIN INDUSTRIES Company (AIC) boosted sales by 26 per cent to reach a record JD 43.5 million last year and, according to the company's 14th annual report, posted a JD 603,400 net profit. However, AIC was forced to set aside JD 150,000 of the profit to cover the value of cheques, that were given to the company by "burnt market" traders and were returned by banks. Of the remaining amount, the company will be distributing JD 100,000 in dividends as the shareholders approved distributing dividends at a rate of 10 per cent at a general assembly meeting held this week. AIC Chairman Anis Muasher told the general assembly that the company would distribute half a share free for each share held by the shareholder once a 15 per cent government tax on capitalisation of reserves is abolished. He also told the general assembly that AIC was negotiating with Japan's Sanyo Corporation and that the talks have reached final stages. The talks aim at allowing AIC to manufacture (assemble) Sanyo products in Jordan hopefully before the end of this year. Mr. Muasher said he hopes that an agreement will also be reached to build a large Sanyo production centre in the Kingdom (Al Aswag).

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 6/9/95

		Bid	Offer
Currency			
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.62	5.62
Sterling Pound	6.50	6.50	6.62
Deutsche Mark	4.00	4.00	4.00
Swiss Franc	2.62	2.62	2.62
French Franc	5.56	5.50	5.56
Japanese Yen	0.43	0.43	0.43
European Currency Unit	5.50	5.50	5.50
Interest Rate	6/9/95		
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.62	5.62
Sterling Pound	6.50	6.50	6.62
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Swiss Franc	2.62	2.62	2.62
French Franc	5.56	5.50	5.56
Japanese Yen	0.43	0.43	0.43
European Currency Unit	5.50	5.5	

Muster, Stich fall; Sabatini sweeps into semis

NEW YORK (R) — A pair of seeded men with formidable Grand Slam credentials were upset at the U.S. Open Tuesday by an American whose best days seemed to be behind him and a Zimbabwean avocado farmer's son having his best day.

Former world number one Jim Courier, who has been struggling and out of the top 10 for nearly two years, overpowered third-seeded French Open champion Thomas Muster 6-3, 6-0, 7-6 in a slugfest contested primarily from well behind the baseline.

"On good days, I'm much better than my ranking reflects," said the 15th-ranked Courier, a former two-time Australian and French Open champion.

Earlier, 70th-ranked Zimbabwean Byron Black withstood a furious comeback by eighth-seeded German Michael Stich to claim a quarter-final berth with a

shocking 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 2-6, 6-3 victory.

Stich, the 1991 Wimbledon champion and last year's U.S. Open runner-up, had high hopes of making it back to the final this year.

Black, a native of Harare, Zimbabwe who learned to play barefoot on grass, has never won a singles title and had never been past the third round at a Grand Slam event.

"I think Harare is going to be pumped up, the parents are going to be pumped up at home," said the delighted Black, who next faces two-time Open champion Pete Sampras.

Second seed Sampras overpowered U.S. Davis Cup teammate Todd Martin, the 15th seed 7-6 (7-4), 6-3, 6-1 in a night match.

Sampras, winner of six Grand Slam crowns, beat down the lean, 6-foot-6 (1.98 metres) Martin with powerful serves and aggressive shot-making from the baseline and



Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina celebrates her victory over Mary Joe Fernandez to reach the U.S. Open semifinal (AFP photo)

the confident Courier was not about to let this one slip away, even after the set went to a tie-break.

"I feel pretty good going out against Thomas on any surface. It's power versus power," said Courier, who is now 4-0 against Muster in Grand Slam meetings.

In an all-American quarter-final Courier will take on the always dangerous Michael Chang.

The fifth-seeded Chang opened the day's play with a 6-2, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 win over 119th-ranked Australian Michael Tebbit.

Stich appeared to have turned the tide after dropping the first two sets and it seemed like a matter of time before Black would collapse under the pressure.

Muster stopped the bleeding by holding serve to open the third set and played Courier close thereafter. But

the match," said the German serve and volleyer, who made 118 forays to the net, winning 77 of them.

But a couple of mistakes in the sixth game of the final set cost Stich dearly as Black broke for a 4-3 lead, then held his serve to go 5-2 up.

"I was too confident," admitted Stich. "I came to the net, had the volley on my racket, just didn't make it. You know, that is tennis."

Still, Black, who also upset ninth seed Thomas Enqvist in the second round, showed he had the mental toughness to close it out after Stich held for 5-3 and saved one match point in the final game.

"I should have won the match today and I gave it away in the fifth set," lamented the eighth seed.

"I think it was a very even match, but unfortunately I am not in the next round."

Ski federation finalises 95-96 schedule

OBERTHOFEN, Switzerland (AP) — The 1995-96 World Cup ski schedule will kick off in the United States to avoid the unpredictable European snow patterns that wreaked havoc with last season's calendar.

The final schedule announced Tuesday by the International Ski Federation moved the finals to Winter Olympic host Lillehammer. The northern Norwegian resort of Narvik originally was planned.

The ski federation, known by its French acronym FIS, said there would be a preliminary

men and women's giant slalom in Tignes, France, Nov. 11-12. The races will start off a glacier 2,800 metres (9,240 feet) high.

The main races will start in Vail, Colorado, Nov. 16-19 with a slalom and giant slalom for the men, and slalom and Super-G for women.

There will be a total 12 events in North America before the circuit moves to Val D'Isere in France Dec. 6.

By juggling the calendar, FIS hopes to avoid a repeat of last year's chaos.

The women's events,

which opened in North America, started off smoothly, but lack of snow in European resorts in December forced a whole series of men's races to be postponed.

The prestige World Alpine Ski Championships were also scrapped because of lack of snow in Sierra Nevada, Spain. That event is now due to be held in the same resort next Feb. 11-25.

Following the successful experiment last year with night-time competition — which is popular with sponsors because of bigger television audiences — there will be a floodlit men and women's slalom in Sestriere, Italy, Jan. 26 and 27.

There will be just two races — a men's downhill and Super-G in Nagano, Japan.

The World Cup finals wrap up the season for both women and men in Lillehammer March 4-10. The small Norwegian resort made its name by hosting the hugely successful 1994 winter Olympics.

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Cowboy's owner Jerry Jones and Nike chairman Philip Knight announced a seven-year sponsorship agreement that, among other things, will have all Cowboys players and coaches wearing Nike products even though Nike does not have a full agreement with NFL properties, the marketing division of the league which must license all agreements.

"The Cowboy's introduction of the new commercial sponsorship agreement involving Nike and Cowboy's personnel on the sidelines during Monday night's game presents apparent violations of league policies," the statement said.

No date has been set for

Christie wins, then rules out Atlanta

RIETI, Italy (AP) — British sprinter Linford Christie says he's made his mark and is unlikely to participate in the 1996 summer Olympics in Atlanta.

Christie, the 1992 Olympic champion and 1993 world champion at 100 metres, pulled away over the final 20 metres to capture the 100 metre dash Tuesday at the Rieti track and field meet.

Afterward, he told Italian Rai state television not to expect a defence of that Olympic title next year.

"I probably will not be competing in Atlanta. I think I'll not be there," he said. "I took some sweet revenge after the World Championships. I have nothing to show at 35, except that athletics can be fun."

Christie's bid to defend his title at the recent World Championships in Göteborg, Sweden, was ended by a hamstring injury.

He clocked 10.20 seconds Tuesday under a steady downpour that forced cancellation of the men's pole vault and slowed times.

Australian Damien Marsh was second on 10.27.

World champion Michael Johnson was among those turning in impressive performances despite the conditions, winning the 200 in 20.09, the year's third-best time.

"It's a fast track and I could have clocked a faster time, but the weather was too bad," said the American, who won the 200 and 400 at Göteborg to complete an historic double.

Kenya's Moses Kiptanui won the men's 2-mile run, Algeria's Noureddine Morceli captured the 3,000 metres, and Sonia O'Sullivan of Ireland won the women's mile, but all fell short in attempts to break world records in those events.

Morceli was four seconds under record pace at 1,500 metres, but slowed to a finishing time of 3:29.36 minutes, 4.35 seconds off his own mark.

Kiptanui ran 8:13.40, allowing Ethiopia's Haile Gebrsellasie to retain his record of 8:07.46, while O'Sullivan used a strong final kick to overcome Jamaica's Yvonne Graham from the final 40 metres to clock 4:29.82, well off Romanian Paula Ivan's record of 4:15.61, which has stood since 1989.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Redondo prefers hair to soccer

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Real Madrid midfielder Fernando Redondo said Tuesday he had spurned an international call-up for Argentina because he refused to sacrifice his long blonde hair. Argentine coach Daniel Passarella, a strict disciplinarian, met with Redondo in Madrid and said only the star's shoulder-length hair was barring him from a comeback in upcoming friendlies against Spain and Colombia. "When we got to the subject of hair, I told him I wouldn't cut it because it is part of my personality," Redondo said in an interview with a local radio station. "I am a person and a player — but in that order." Passarella said last year he would ignore any player with long hair as it often impeded vision. Fiorentina striker Gabriel Batistuta immediately cut off his locks, as did other hopefuls in the Argentine league. Redondo and striker Claudio Caniggia, who both refused to conform, were left out in the cold.

Le Jingyi returns with a win

BEIJING (AFP) — China's world champion Le Jingyi bounced back with a convincing win in the national swimming championships from which China's team for the short course world championships in Rio de Janeiro in Nov. 30-Dec. 3 will be selected. Le took Tuesday's 100m final in Chengdu in 56.04sec, two seconds slower than her world record, but still impressive after her long absence from competitive swimming. The Shanghai teenager won four titles at last year's world championships in Rome. But she was a flop at the Asian Games in Hiroshima, making a false start in one final, and has not been seen while the swimming squad gets over its various drug scandals. Seven swimmers, including world champions Yang Aihua and Lu Bin, failed drug tests in Hiroshima. Zhou Ming, coach to Yang and Le, was among those sanctioned later.

Cantona given death threat

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United star Eric Cantona and his manager Alex Ferguson have been issued with a death threat which police are treating seriously. The threat came from a man claiming to be a Leeds United fan who said a group of the club's fans would be carrying weapons when Leeds play Manchester United at Elland Road on December 24. And in a call to Football Monthly magazine editor Tony Flood he warned: "If me and my mates get to Cantona or Ferguson we'll kill the bastards. "We will give them hell when they come here. This is a serious threat. We're all carrying weapons and know how to use them."

Göteborg punish crowd misbehaviour

NYON, Switzerland (AP) — Swedish soccer champion IFK Göteborg has been ordered to play its next European game 200 kilometres away from home after fans hit a linesman with coins, UEFA announced Tuesday. Soccer's European governing body also banned one player, Veselin Popovic of Yugoslavia's FC Obilic, for three years for spitting at a referee and another, Russia's Alexandre Rychkov, for two years for violently pushing an official. The punishment against Göteborg comes after the Swedish team was knocked out of the Champions Cup by Poland's Legia Warsaw at its Ullevi Stadium August 23. Coins rained down onto the field and one of them hit a linesman, UEFA said. The club also was 11,000 Swiss francs (\$9,167) over the behaviour of the team during the 3-1 defeat.

Graham decides against appeal

LONDON (AP) — Former Arsenal manager George Graham Tuesday said he was determined to return to soccer within a year after deciding not to appeal against his 12-month worldwide ban from the game. The English Football Association banned Graham earlier this year after an inquiry found him guilty of taking kickbacks from negotiating player transfers. Soccer's world body FIFA then extended the ban internationally. Graham said in a statement that he had three main reasons for deciding against an appeal. "I do not have a bottomless pocket to meet the costs of an appeal," the statement said. "Secondly I feel in my heart I would not get a fair hearing and lastly I want to get on with the rest of my life and put this episode behind me."

NFL says rules violated in Nike-Cowboys deal

NEW YORK (R) — The National Football League said on Tuesday the sponsorship deal between the Dallas Cowboys and Nike, Inc. is in violation of league rules regarding sharing of revenue.

The hearing, although the statement said Tagliabue would "promptly do so,"

The deal makes Nike an official sponsor of Texas Stadium and gives the sports footwear and clothing giant the rights to use the Texas Stadium logo in connection with the sale of Nike products.

Jones and Knight also announced a joint venture to design, build and operate a state-of-the-art theme park to be located at Texas Stadium. The theme park will be devoted entirely to football.

Cowboy's owner Jerry Jones and Nike chairman Philip Knight announced a seven-year sponsorship agreement that, among other things, will have all Cowboys players and coaches wearing Nike products even though Nike does not have a full agreement with NFL properties, the marketing division of the league which must license all agreements.

"The Cowboy's introduction of the new commercial sponsorship agreement involving Nike and Cowboy's personnel on the sidelines during Monday night's game presents apparent violations of league policies," the statement said.

No date has been set for

major revenue sources such as television rights and merchandise.

Tagliabue already has criticised Jones' plan for a 10-year, \$40 million deal that Jones signed with Pepsi-Cola. Tagliabue said the exclusive arrangement violated the spirit of a league contract with Coca-Cola for exclusive marketing and promotional rights.

Knight said his company still is interested in striking a deal with the NFL.

"We have had discussions over the past five years with NFL properties, but have been unable to reach an agreement," Knight said.

"This agreement with the Dallas Cowboys allows us the opportunity to pursue our desire to be associated with the most popular football teams in America, while we continue our efforts to work with NFL properties in an official capacity."

The signing could have an impact on the ability of the Cowboys to sign free agent defensive back Deion Sanders, who is already under contract to Nike. It also could have major ramifications on possible free agent signings of other players who already have individual deals with Nike.

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Iraq reaches out to neighbours

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq, striving to break loose from its political and economic isolation, is asking its neighbours help it fight crippling U.N. trade sanctions.

The government in Baghdad has made calls for normalisation of ties with former enemies — Syria and Iran — and has also asked Turkey to boost existing trade relations.

The overtures come as its three neighbours prepare a meeting of foreign ministers in Iran due on Friday to discuss Iraq. Officials holding preparatory meetings talked of their "deep concern" over threats to Iraq's territorial integrity.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammad Saifan surprised analysts and diplomats in Baghdad on Tuesday by praising President Hafez Al-Assad of Syria for what he

termed his "balanced and positive" remarks on the defection to Jordan of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel.

Mr. Assad was quoted as saying the defection of President Saddam Hussein's son-in-law to Jordan last month was not as important as media reports had suggested.

Gen. Kamel, the brains behind Iraq's military industries, has called for the overthrow of the Baghdad government.

Mr. Sahaf's statement front-paged Baghdad newspapers on Tuesday and was repeated several times by the country's state radio and television.

"That was the first positive reaction from Baghdad towards Assad since 1979," said an Arab diplomat. "Maybe the Iraqis think the

solution to their problem lies in drastic changes in the political alliances in the region."

For the third day running, the official press urged Iran to reconsider what it termed its hostile attitude towards Iraq "for the service of the Muslim peoples of the two countries."

"Today, Iran should prove its good intentions to establish good neighbourly relations with Iraq," said the English-language daily Baghdad Observer in an editorial.

Iraq is also seeking to improve ties with Turkey. The vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council Izzat Ibrahim, in remarks published on Wednesday, stressed "Iraq's desire to develop relations with our neighbour Turkey in a manner that will serve the interests of the two Muslim

countries."

Iraq's ties with its neighbours are a highly complex web of interests, some of them conflicting with others.

Syria, Iran and Turkey routinely affirm their commitment to Iraq's territorial sovereignty and opposition to any foreign intervention in its internal affairs.

But they all host Iraqi opposition leaders too.

Syria and Iraq, both adherents of Baathist ideology, have long been locked in the bitter struggle of two splinter groups claiming to be the true heirs of the same revolutionary movement.

Shiite Iran has been historically linked to coreligionists in Iraq, where the key Shiite shrines of Najaf and Karbala are located.

And Turkey has made two large-scale-military incursions into northern Iraq this year to chase down Turkish Kurd rebels.

Moscow denied Wednesday that Iraq had ordered 4,000 Russian tanks as claimed by General Kamel.

"There has been no such official request from Iraq," a spokesman for the state-run Rosvozvuzhenie company in charge of military exports said.

"To me, this figure seems enormous," Valeri Pogrebensky said.

Gen. Kamel told U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus that Baghdad had ordered 4,000 modern tanks from Moscow, a Western diplomat in Amman said Tuesday.

Under the deal agreed a few months ago, the tanks would be delivered over

(Continued on page 7)

Afghans raze Pakistani embassy in Kabul

KABUL (R) — At least 5,000 Afghan demonstrators attacked the Pakistani embassy in Kabul on Wednesday in protest at Islamabad's alleged support for the Islamic Taliban militia.

Witnesses said the Pakistani embassy was ablaze in four places and smoke was also seen rising from the adjacent British embassy compound, though it was not under direct attack.

It was not clear if several unidentified people lying near the embassy gate were dead or wounded.

One Pakistani embassy staffer was led away, limping and holding his head, apparently after being beaten up.

Armed Afghan security men and soldiers stood by and watched as the angry crowd attacked the embassy.

Some demonstrators surged into the compound, broke into buildings and set fires.

The protesters assaulted a Japanese television crew working for the United Nations and snatched the film from the camera of a Reuter photographer.

"This is a spontaneous expression of people's sentiments," said Azz Morad, spokesman for Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani. "Our forces have been preventing people from breaking into the embassy grounds and we will send more troops."

He told reporters the government would provide security at the main United Nations compound in Kabul, which he said could also be a target for demonstrations.

The protesters had gathered in central Kabul ab-

out 10 a.m. (0530 GMT) before marching on the Pakistani embassy, in the former British embassy compound in northern Kabul.

"Death to Benazir, death to Leghari," they chanted, in reference to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and President Farouq Leghari.

In Islamabad, Foreign Ministry officials said they had no word on the embassy attack. British diplomats said they were trying to contact Afghan support staff at the British embassy in Kabul. No British diplomats are posted there.

Only a few countries, including Pakistan, Iran and Indonesia, have diplomats serving in their Kabul embassies.

It was the second attack on the Pakistani embassy in less

than two years. Afghan protesters sacked the mission in February 1994 to protest at the killing in Islamabad of three Afghan gunmen who had hijacked a school bus from Peshawar.

The Afghan government has formally accused Pakistan of aiding the Taliban movement, which captured the key Western city of Herat on Tuesday in a major blow to Mr. Rabbani (see page 2).

A Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman dismissed the charge and said Islamabad was neutral in the Afghan conflict.

Mr. Morad accused Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence network of funding the religiously-minded Taliban, who emerged from the obscurity of Koranic schools in Pakistan last year, with the

aim of opening a trade route to Central Asia through Afghanistan.

"The Taliban are Pakistan's proxy invading army," he said on Tuesday. "They are Taliban in name only."

Official Kabul Radio said Foreign Minister Najibullah Lafta had sent a message to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali accusing Pakistan of "direct aggression."

Islamabad insists it has no favourites among the various Afghan guerrilla factions it supported during a 14-year-old war against a Soviet-backed regime in Kabul.

The loss of Herat was a major setback to Mr. Rabbani's government, whose allies had controlled the city since the collapse of a communist-led government in Kabul in April 1992.

Islam treats men, women as equals — Prince Basma

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

BEIJING — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma said in a lecture Wednesday that Islam regards women as completely equal to men in all aspects and called for absolute equality among all people with no distinction based on sex, colour or race.

In the lecture entitled "Women and Development

— An Islamic Perspective," the Princess said that the respective roles and social functions of both sexes are distributed between them in a manner that does not violate the equal status of men and women.

"No hint is given in the Koran to indicate any male superiority in punishment and reward, and the Koran addressed the human conscience regardless of gender," the Princess said.

"Islam has introduced many provisions that explicitly gave women their full rights of which they had previously been denied," she added.

In addition, Islam regulated the procedures of marriage as well as divorce and the spending of wealth, according to Princess Basma, who stressed also that Islam commanded men to treat women kindly and honour the institution of marriage.

Islamabad insists it has no favourites among the various Afghan guerrilla factions it supported during a 14-year-old war against a Soviet-backed regime in Kabul.

In the lecture, attended by

several heads of women delegations to the World Conference on Women here, the Princess pointed to the women's contributions to social and political life in Islam.

She said books of Sirah (the Prophet's biography) history and literature are full of examples where women personally participated in wars and in tending the sick and providing the troops with food and water.

Contrary to frequent stereotyping in motion pictures, television series and other forms of media, Islam does not regard females as a closed congregation of underprivileged harem, said Princess Basma.

Calling on men and women to work to rectify misconceptions and distortions of the role and status of women in Islam, the Princess said such efforts "are needed in order to enable Muslim women to take up their role in development, a role that was highly significant in the social, economic and cultural fields throughout the past decades of Muslim civilisation."

In reply to a question after the lecture, the Princess said that Jordan was a conservative society respecting religion and traditional custom and values.

The Jordanian family, she added, is the nucleus of society in which women like other societies in the developing world still face problems. But, she said, they are continually involved in programmes that help to improve their status at all levels.

Bahrain government, opposition strike deal

NICOSIA (AFP) — Bahrain is to release on Thursday almost 150 people held after anti-government demonstrations under a deal reached between the authorities and jailed Shiite opposition leaders. Bahraini lawyers said Wednesday.

About 150 prisoners were already freed on Aug. 16 several days after the deal was reached, and between 500 to 600 would be released in a final, third stage at the end of September, one of the lawyers told AFP in Nicosia by telephone.

Sources close to the opposition said under the deal they had agreed not to hold any demonstrations for two months. Troubles erupted in the Gulf archipelago in December, but have virtually died out since April.

Lawyers said Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Khalifa Al Khalifa and the British advisor for security in Bahrain, Ian Henderson, took part in drawing up the deal along with five opposition leaders.

Leading opposition figures Abdul Wahab Hussein, who was arrested in April, would be among those freed on Thursday, they added.

He along with Abdul Jamil Hassaan and Khalil Sultan had helped to secure the agreement. The last three were released in August, while Mr. Jamil is to

be freed in the third wave, the lawyer said.

Opposition sources said they had agreed to a two-month period of calm, without any demonstrations, during which the authorities would hold talks with Shiite and Sunni leaders on restoring the constitution.

Parliament has been suspended in the former British protectorate since 1975, and the unrest flared after the arrests of Shiite leaders calling for a restoration of parliamentary life. At least 12 died in a wave of violent protests.

The deal was cautiously welcomed by the London-based Bahrain Freedom Movement which said in a statement "the fate of previous accords with Al Khalifa government does not lend itself to optimism."

However, another opposition group, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, (IFLB), said it was not bound by the accord. It urged Bahrainis to "continue their revolt until the legitimate demands of the Bahraini people are met."

The IFLB said in a statement that true dialogue was impossible in Bahrain "because it takes place under the shadow of bayonets," and it voiced doubt whether Mr. Henderson and the government would stick to their side of the deal.

PLO accuses Israel of massacring 450

EREZ (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) charged Wednesday that Israeli troops massacred 450 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip during the 1956 Suez war and demanded an inquiry.

"Israel has to offer an explanation for the massacre committed in Khan Younes," Justice Minister Freih Abu Meddein said.

He was speaking to reporters after meeting Israel's Justice Minister David Libai at the Erez border crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

"Israeli soldiers gathered together 450 people and massacred them in the street."

"It was a war crime," he said.

Palestinian Attorney General Khaled Kidra, who attended the talks, said the killings took place between Nov. 6 and 8, 1956.

The Israeli army, backing British and French forces, went through the Gaza Strip, which was under Egyptian control, en route to the Sinai peninsula after Egypt's former President Gamal Abdul Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal.

Revelations that Israeli forces massacred hundreds of Egyptians in 1956 and 1967 have led Cairo to demand a

full investigation.

"We have to get the same from Israel as the Egyptians," Mr. Abu Meddein said.

Israeli army chief-of-staff General Amnon Shahak insisted Tuesday that the massacre was impossible because it takes place under the shadow of bayonets," and it voiced doubt whether Mr. Henderson and the government would stick to their side of the deal.

"Respect for prisoners is one of the overriding principles we have set ourselves, and any deviation from it must be considered as exceptional and unacceptable."

"For at least two decades, very precise standards of behaviour towards prisoners of war have been set, and every soldier in the Israeli army who does not respect them faces legal proceedings."

The army chief added: "These rules have been observed except in some rare, isolated cases which have been examined and judged."

Gen. Shahak said he had ordered special training programmes for behaviour towards POWs to be distributed to his soldiers.

Around 900 Egyptian soldiers who had surrendered their arms in the 1956 Suez campaign and the June 1967 war were reportedly massacred.

MANILA (AFP) — President Fidel Ramos has ordered officials — for the third time in two months — to crack down on brothel operators in Manila and Pampanga province, the presidential palace said. A palace statement said Mr. Ramos ordered local government, tourism and justice officials and the national police chief to "take aggressive and positive actions" against the proliferation of sex dens by following a "three-level approach." The three-pronged approach includes passing legislative measures in Congress, law enforcement by authorities and participation of non-government organisations. The statement said Mr. Ramos' directive was prompted by a newspaper report that "sex for sale has been victimising more and more women, men and children not only in metro Manila but in the province of Pampanga (north of the capital)," the statement said.

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Column 8

Spike Lee presents Clockers at Venice

Film Festival

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Spike Lee may conquer Venice the second time around. Clockers, Lee's searing portrait of New York street life, is a top candidate for the Golden Lion Award for best film he missed when he presented Mo' Better Blues at the Venice Film Festival three years ago. The "murder mystery to the sound of rap," as Lee called his latest film, won over movie-goers and film critics at an enthusiastic screening Tuesday. In the fast-paced opening sequence, titles are presented over a series of stills recreating crime scene shots of murder victims, interspersed with graffiti murals commemorating the dead. "I wanted people to know straight away that we weren't dealing with cartoon movies," Lee said in an interview. The director, wearing a grey suit and tie, looked relaxed. "Maybe the fact that I've got married and now have a 9-month-old baby may have something to do with it," he said. Lee said he used images mimicking video games to show how such games can encourage violence in young people. Condemning the light-hearted use of violence and the easy good guy/bad guy characters in many movies, Lee said: "America doesn't need any bombs — they have Hollywood. In Hollywood the heroes wear the white hats and the bad guys wear the black ones." I tried to give a view point that was closer to reality. My policeman has been on the streets 20 years and knows (the streets) as well as the guys he's fighting. He's not a hero. People aren't all-good or all-bad. It's not just druggies, pregnant girls. It's not as simple as that." Harvey Keitel is the street-wise homicide detective relentlessly investigating a gunshot murder with his partner, played by John Turturro.

Venerated linen to be exhibited in 1998 and 2000

TURIN, Italy (AP) — The holy shroud — the linen believers say was used to wrap Jesus Christ after his crucifixion — will be exhibited in the Turin Cathedral in 1998, for the first time in 20 years. The event is expected to draw tens of thousands of visitors to this northern city, Italy's auto capital. Cardinal Giovanni Saldarini said that the rare exhibition will be held in April, during the Easter period, to celebrate the centenary of the first ever showing to the public. Card. Saldarini said the cloth will be exhibited again at Easter time in 2000, in occasion of the jubilee year. The shroud, traced to France in 1354 and property of the royal family of Savoy, has been kept in the Turin Cathedral since 1578.

Ramos orders 3rd crackdown on sex dens

MANILA (AFP) — President Fidel Ramos has ordered officials — for the third time in two months — to crack down on brothel operators in Manila and Pampanga province, the presidential palace said. A palace statement said Mr. Ramos ordered local government, tourism and justice officials and the national police chief to "take aggressive and positive actions" against the proliferation of sex dens by following a "three-level approach." The three-pronged approach includes passing legislative measures in Congress, law enforcement by authorities and participation of non-government organisations. The statement said Mr. Ramos' directive was prompted by a newspaper report that "sex for sale has been victimising more and more women, men and children not only in metro Manila but in the province of Pampanga (north of the capital),"